THE MAX FACTOR

MAX DOMI AND OTHER YOUNG KNIGHTS HAVE BLAZED A WINNING PATH TO FRIDAY'S DECISION-MAKER AGAINST NIAGARA PAGE 4

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Jury deciding Rafferty's fate

Tori Stafford murder. Judge gives final directions, commands jury to follow the evidence

The fate of Michael Rafferty, accused of abducting eight-year-old Victoria Stafford for his sexual gratification before beating her to death and hiding her body under a pile of rocks, is in the hands of a jury.

After listening to at-times disturbing evidence from 62 witnesses over two months, nine women and three men are deciding whether Rafferty, 31, is guilty of first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping. He pleaded not guilty.

The jury began deliberating Thursday afternoon after being given final instructions by Superior Court Judge Thomas Heeney, who laid out for them many ways they could reach various verdicts.

The trial was long and the instructions from Heeney were complex. Jurors saw 190 exhibits and heard evidence from dozens of experts, police officers and other witnesses, but Rafferty's ex-girlfriend Terri-Lynne McClintic ties it all together. The Crown alleges Rafferty and McClintic kidnapped Stafford outside her school in Woodstock in 2009, then drove to a rural area where the girl was raped and killed.

McClintic, who pleaded guilty two years ago to first-degree murder, initially told police Rafferty killed the girl, but testified at his trial that she delivered the fatal blows.

The scenarios Heeney described, which will direct the jury's deliberations, turn on whether the jurors think Rafferty or McClintic killed Tori, and the possible convictions range from first-degree murder down to manslaughter and not guilty.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

For continuing coverage of the Michael Rafferty trial, go to metronews.ca.

Defence lawyers Dirk Derstine and Laura Giordano speak to the media on Thursday during a break in proceedings at Michael Rafferty's murder trial. After 10 weeks of often harrowing testimony, the case is in the hands of the jury. DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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1 NEWS

On the web

Modern-day Crusoe

Modern-day homestead or survival game? An Anchorage, Alaska, oil employee/filmmaker is heading to a nearly deserted island for one year with nothing but his dog as a sidekick. Watch at metronews.ca

Mobile news

The jury's out on whether it's breastfeeding at its best or parenting at its worst. Either way, it's an image that has tongues wagging. A controversial Time magazine cover photo is going viral, and people across the globe, Canadians included, are voicing their opinions. Scan the code for the story.

Books to art? Thank Beal

A carved book on display in London's central library. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

The intricately carved books left at local libraries since late March aren't the works of artists decades in the making.

Rather, they're the work of H.B. Beal Secondary School teenagers inspired — and urged on — by art teacher Ron Milton.

Milton was in Edinburgh, Scotland, last summer when similar creations were left anonymously at cultural institutions around the city. That got him thinking: Maybe a Forest City remake would challenge students and help make Beal's 100th anniversary extra special.

Aside from being left at five library branches, the books-turned-art have been left at Western University's McIntosh Gallery and an art gallery in St. Thomas.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

More nurses. Province to hire 900 RNs this year

Ontario will hire an additional 900 nurses this year and focus their efforts on nursing homes and community-based care.

Hospital emergency rooms get backlogged because beds needed to admit patients are often occupied by those who should be getting care elsewhere.

The new nurses will help get patients who need alternate levels of care out of hospitals and back home or into a community-care facility or nursing home.

The government is engaged in a battle with doctors over a public-sector wage freeze, but the contract with about 50,000 registered nurses doesn't expire for another two years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

144

Number of nurses being hired to work in schools to help with early identification of students with potential mental-health or addiction issues.

Party bylaw gets first nod

Feedback. 'Minor changes' made: City staff

ANGELA MULLINS
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A bylaw giving police more authority over wild parties has passed its first hurdle at city hall.

City council's public safety committee recommended the proposal move ahead during a Thursday afternoon meeting attended by only two committee members, Coun. Denise Brown and Coun. Paul Hubert, and Mayor Joe Fontana.

Tabled weeks after an alcohol-fuelled March 17 riot on Fleming Drive, the ordinance will be considered by full council May 22.

City officials have said such a bylaw would have allowed them to disperse Fleming Drive partiers before the situation got out of hand.

Fontana's calling the ordinance "absolutely a must" for the city.

"It's unfortunate that we have to take this action," the mayor said. "(But) not taking this action would be equally problematic for us."

The bylaw defines a nuisance party as a gathering on private or public property that meets any one of 10 criteria, including fights and unreasonable noise.

Aside from what's included in the list, the original proposal gave law enforcement authority to deem "any other conduct or activity at a social gathering" a public nuisance. That phrase isn't included in what was OK'd Thursday.

The bylaw allows a judge to prohibit repeat offences. If a judge takes that route and someone is cited a second time, they would be in violation of a court order — something that could help calm down problem neighbourhoods all together, officials say.

Coun. Denise Brown, chair of the public safety committee, reacts to a comment during a Thursday nuisance-bylaw discussion. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Naughty list

If one or more of the following happens, a gathering could be dubbed a nuisance party:

- Disorderly conduct
- Being drunk in public
- Illegally selling or furnishing alcohol
- Depositing refuse
- Damaging property
- Blocking traffic
- Unreasonable noise
- Open burning
- Fighting
- Public urination

City staff, including police Chief Brad Duncan, stressed Thursday that the bylaw will only be enforced in very serious situations that meet a high threshold.

It's not a tool to stop "kids in the backyard playing beer pong," said bylaw-enforcement manager Orest Katolyk.

Condominium Act

Bill will better protect condo owners, boards by creating tribunal: NDP

Ontario's New Democrats want the province to update its laws to better protect condominium owners.

New Democrat Rosario Marchese has introduced legislation that would amend the Condominium Act to provide owners with stronger legal and consumer protections.

He says the changes are needed because condo laws are outdated and force owners and boards to take developers to court, which is very expensive.

Marchese says his private member's bill would create a review board that would provide a cheaper alternative to resolve disputes between owners and developers.

It would change Tarion, which oversees the warranties of new condos, to ensure owners' interests are represented.

The bill would also license property managers and require developers to use "good-faith language" so owners get what they paid for.

Private member's bills rarely become law unless the government throws its support behind the legislation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Could Friday be a title Knight for the Forest City?

OHL final. The London Knights have the Niagara IceDogs right where they want them: Scratching and clawing to stay alive

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

Unlike a single game when pure skill can overpower the right mindset, a hockey series is won between the ears.

The London Knights, who are a single victory away from obtaining the Ontario Hockey League title for just the second time in franchise history, appear to possess every morsel of the mental edge for Game 5 Friday at 7 p.m. at the JLC.

"We have to continue to focus on the things we've done well," said assistant captain Scott Harrington, who was voted the Western Conference's smartest player in March. "I don't think we need to change anything though, especially with our preparation."

Harrington and hulking defence partner Jarred Tinordi have been largely impenetrable as a pairing in the final.

In four total games, London has managed to silence Ryan Strome, a nifty playmaker projected to make a living as a first-line NHL centre sooner than later. The juggernaut Niagara IceDogs have received a combined six points from Strome and linemates Freddie Hamilton and Tom Kuhnkackl.

Instead, they're frustratingly witnessing the likes of Max Domi, Chris Tierney and Ryan Rupert — all Knights forwards under the age of 18 — take control of the best-of-seven series from an offensive standpoint.

"We didn't know how our young kids would develop earlier in the year, but they've gotten better and better as the months have gone on," head coach Mark Hunter said of the hot trio that has scored nine of London's 14 goals against Niagara.

On the injury front, it looks like Knights rearguard Olli Maatta — arguably the most impressive player of the post-season, and another under-18 stud — will need a game of rest before returning to action.

"We don't know how bad it is," Hunter said Thursday about Maatta's upper-body injury. "It's a day-to-day thing, and we'll go from there."

Even without Maatta, hoisting the J. Ross Robertson Cup in front of 9,000-plus hometown fans Friday is a real possibility for the Forest City's team. They've dug their teeth into the IceDogs right from the opening puck-drop.

"We're going to see the best game of the series from Niagara tomorrow," said rookie Domi, a point-per-game producer so far in the final. "We're expecting that."

Fantastic finishers

The Knights are 3-0 in these playoffs when their opponent faces elimination:

- Up 3-0 against Windsor in Round 1: Game 4 win (8-3)
- Up 3-2 against Saginaw in Round 2: Game 6 win (5-3)
- Up 3-0 against Kitchener in Round 3: Game 4 win (4-2)

Freshman Max Domi, 17, left, and four-year veteran Colin Martin, 20, relax on one knee as they watch teammates participate in a shootout competition to wrap up the London Knights' Thursday afternoon practice at the JLC. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Knights trio named Ontario Hockey League all-stars

Michael Houser METRO FILE

Scott Harrington METRO FILE

Seth Griffith METRO FILE

Honours continue to roll in for Knights players.

Three London Knights players were recognized once again on Thursday for stellar individual showings in the regular season.

Michael Houser, the Knights' starting goaltender and unanimous MVP, can now add first-team all-star to his resumé. He received 74 votes to take the honour over Mark Visentin of the Niagara IceDogs (46). The Wexford, Pa., native was previously named the OHL's goalie of the year as well as most outstanding player of the year.

Pittsburgh Penguins prospect Scott Harrington, 19, was also named to the first team. The six-foot-one, 195-pound stay-at-home defenceman and Dougie Hamilton of the IceDogs complete the first-team blue-line.

Previously, Harrington was selected the smartest player in the Western Conference for the 2011-12 season.

Undrafted 19-year-old Seth Griffith, who has played two full seasons with the Knights, was selected as a second-team member. Griffith, Sean Monahan of the Ottawa 67's, and Tanner Pearson of the Barrie Colts make up the forward group.

In March, the winger was crowned the Western Conference's most improved player.

JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Homelessness

YOU recognized for excellence

London's Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) has been named one of four winners of the Eva's Initiatives Award for Ending Youth Homelessness. Valued at $25,000, the award recognizes YOU's success in working with homeless and at-risk youth. METRO

Children's health

Raising money for cranial drill

The Change Bandits for Children's Health Foundation are holding a fundraising event May 17. It's a country-themed night that is taking place at the Bucking Bull Saloon (333 Richmond St.). Tickets are $10 available in advance and at the club. Doors open 8 p.m. METRO

Police find shells

St. Thomas bunker is busy

St. Thomas police have visited a neighbourhood home twice this week. Earlier this week, old shells found in an underground "bunker" were removed. They returned on Wednesday to look for live shells that may have been stored elsewhere in the home. METRO

Theatre

Dragons set to fire up the JLC

London will be the first Canadian stop for Dreamworks' acclaimed theatrical tour of How to Train Your Dragon. The show will feature 23 dragons, vikings and acrobats. The show runs July 4 to 8. Tickets go on sale Saturday 10 a.m. METRO

Firefighting

Former chief to give history talk

Retired fire chief J.F. (Jim) Fitzgerald will present the history of the London Fire Department, with a focus on Fire Hall No. 5, May 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Crouch Library (550 Hamilton Rd.). This year is the 100th anniversary of the department's first motorized truck. METRO

Weapons

Swords found, man charged

Chatham-Kent police have seized more than two-dozen swords and large knives. Police say officers with a warrant also seized brass knuckles and a small amount of marijuana Wednesday. A 51-year-old man was held for a bail hearing. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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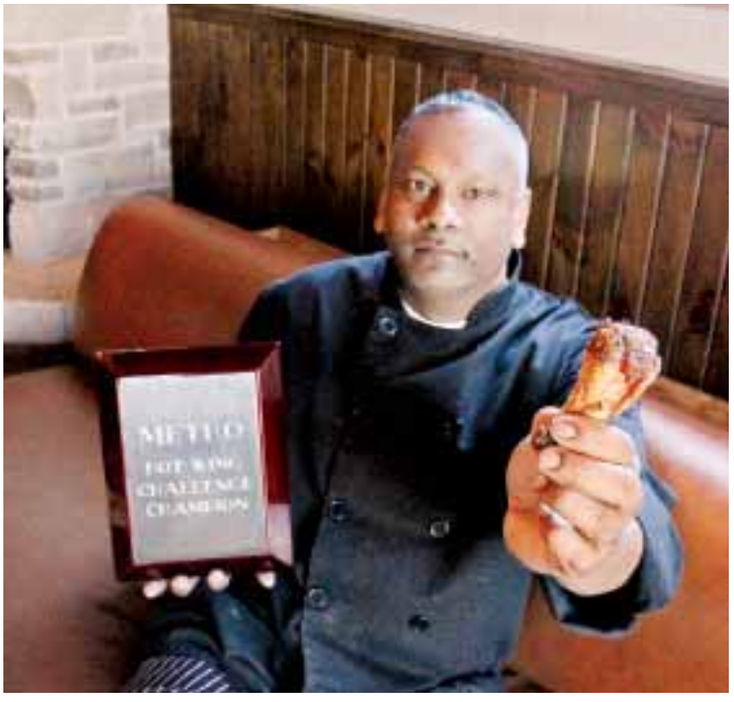

Can you take the heat?

Metro's 2011 Hot Wing Challenge champion Chef Joseph Alexander is cooking in new digs these days. Alexander is pictured here at Smoke-N-Bones (855 Wellington Rd.), where he's now serving up spicy wings and other fare. Metro's second annual Hot Wing Challenge will take place in the fall. We'll have more details later on this year's competition to see which London chef can dish up the hottest, most mouth-watering chicken wings money can buy. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Storybook relocations have big-name backer

Animals. Facilitator of move says well-known activist Bob Barker deserves much of credit

Storybook Gardens' animals have a big name to thank for picking up most of their relocation tab.

Bob Barker, retired host of The Price is Right and a lifelong animal-rights activist, is footing much of what's expected to be a $120,000 bill for placing the attraction's remaining animals in new homes, said officials at Zoocheck Canada, a Toronto wildlife-protection agency that's co-ordinating the moves.

"I have the greatest respect for Zoocheck Canada, and I was delighted to have this opportunity to help them in this most recent project in their long list of accomplishments," Barker said via email.

While Barker's been critical of Toronto officials' resistance to ship their zoo elephants to PAWS animal sanctuary near San Andreas, Calif., he's praised London for being proactive, said Zoocheck's Julie Woodyer.

Bob Barker GETTY IMAGES

Storybook staff and city councillors jumped to action in January when Zoocheck pitched a proposal to move four seals, birds of prey, lynxes, an otter and beavers to other facilities. The quick response — which saw approval granted in a matter of weeks — could be a model for other cities, Woodyer said.

"(Council realized) it would benefit the city and the animals," she said. "That's the way it should be."

Most of the animals have already left Storybook — the birds went to Sandy Pines Wildlife Sanctuary in eastern Ontario and two beavers and an otter moved to Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Muskoka.

The lynxes, which are going to PAWS in California, are expected to move by the end of the month. The harbour seals will travel by truck in June to a new state-of-the-art pool at the St. Louis Zoo in Missouri.

Much of the cost for the moves stems from building enclosures, said Woodyer. The new digs are built around what the critters would encounter in the wild. That means the beavers, for example, now have a chance to build a dam — something they couldn't do at Storybook.

"I just saw the otter and beavers a couple of weeks ago, and they're doing great," she said. "They're acclimatizing quickly to the more natural environment." ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Bidding adieu

- Storybook Gardens has planned a grand sendoff for its famed harbour seals May 26 and 27. People will be able to drop off goodbye cards and take in special entertainment. Visit storybook.london.ca for more details.

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Going above and beyond for Thames Valley

Ceremony. Award-recipient contributions highlighted, and nominees recognized

The Award of Distinction ceremony Thursday night recognized 20 people from the Thames Valley school district for their commitment to public education.

"The Award of Distinction is a way to thank those who go above and beyond to make our system better," Karen Edgar, chair of the award committee, said in a release.

This year, more than 250 staff and family members were expected to attend the ceremony at the Education Centre — one of the annual highlights of Education Week.

"I am humbled by the selfless dedication of so many individuals and realize just how many people go above and beyond the call of duty for our students because it is the right thing to do," said Toni Wilson, a Safe Schools learning co-ordinator, who received an award.

The ceremony highlighted the contributions of each recipient, and recognized 19 nominees. The Award of Distinction was established by trustees in 2000. About 900 nominees and 270 recipients have been recognized since its inception. METRO

Award winners

- Susan Battram, Byron Northview
- Louise Bourassa, Jeanne Sauvé French Immersion
- Susan Bruyns, Wilfrid Jury
- Glenda Burditt, Springbank
- Summer Burton, Tecumseh
- Danielle Cadieux, Stoney Creek
- Elaine Carroll, Sir George Ross
- Nancy Carson, Sir Frederick Banting
- Dan Dube, Rolph Street
- Allison Elliott, Central
- Elaine Jones, H. B. Beal
- Cindy Kissau, Aberdeen
- Linda LaPlante, Central
- Mary McClymont, Montcalm
- Rob Paquette, Southwold
- Sheryl Rooth, Sir John A. Macdonald
- Duncan Sinclair, East Elgin
- Debbie Spence, Ryerson
- Anita Wiebe, New Sarum
- Toni Wilson, Education Centre

Fanshawe revved up for EcoRun tour

Twenty-one-year-old Fanshawe College student Richard Giesbrecht holds up a stop sign as Dominic Caiazzo, 19, also a Fanshawe student, offers gifts to an incoming guest at the EcoRun wrap-up event Thursday afternoon. Held inside Fanshawe's Centre for Applied Transportation Technologies building, the gathering displayed 22 green vehicles to about 100 people. EcoRun is a tour run by the Automotive Journalists Association of Canada that started in Brighton, stopped in Toronto and finished in London. The purpose of the three-day tour is to not only celebrate, but also demonstrate the use of fuel-efficient cars. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Waterloo Street

Woman found in lot, later dies

London police discovered a 41-year-old woman in the 405 Waterloo St. parking lot early Thursday. The woman was pronounced dead after arriving at hospital. Police said there was no evidence of foul play. No other details were released. METRO

Walk for Memories

Alzheimer's walk this weekend

The Alzheimer Society London and Middlesex will hold its Walk for Memories Saturday. The 18th annual event runs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Springbank Gardens. You can register at walkformemories.ca. METRO

Highway 403

Man killed in crash on 403

A 49-year-old London man was killed just after midnight Thursday in a single-vehicle crash on the 403, near Hamilton. Police say speed may have been a factor. The OPP closed a stretch of the 403 for several hours. AM980/AM980.CA

Hockey. MacLean takes flack for 9-11 comment

For once, Don Cherry isn't in the hot seat over what he said on Hockey Night In Canada.

Instead it's his longtime on-air companion Ron MacLean, who sparked controversy when he compared players to 9-11 first responders prior to Wednesday's playoff game between New York and Washington.

At the start of the broadcast, MacLean notes that the two cities were united by the tragedy of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

He says it is "crazy to compare what the emergency responders did during that time, but a spirit has to start somewhere."

He then goes on to say you "can't help but be struck by the players and the way they've played these games.

"They are like police officers, they are like firefighters. You can't fight fire with ego. The pain these men have faced, the price they keep on paying, the hearts they keep on lifting."

MacLean and the CBC issued a statement Thursday to "clarify" the comments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver

More charges in Stanley Cup riot

Six more people have been charged in last year's Stanley Cup riot in Vancouver, bringing to 91 the total number of people facing charges.

The latest suspects are men and women from the Metro Vancouver region ranging in age from 19 to 33. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hackers

Smartphones vulnerable: Study

Handheld devices such as smartphones and tablets could be the next frontier for cyber-spies and other rogue players in the digital world, warns a newly declassified assessment from Canada's intelligence agency. Opportunities for malicious hackers are growing. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thousands march to end legalized abortions

Ottawa. Teenagers, families and religious leaders gather at Parliament Hill two weeks after MP rekindles national abortion debate

Pro-life supporters take part in the March For Life rally in Ottawa on Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thousands of people marched through the streets of Ottawa on Thursday in an annual protest to end legalized abortions.

Throngs of teenagers, given the day off by their Roman Catholic schools to attend the event, sang "Life is Life, Na Na Na Na Na," as they drifted slowly away from Parliament Hill into the streets.

They were joined by religious leaders and people of all ages, including families with small children, in a march that lasted nearly two hours.

The protest came just two weeks after a Conservative MP tried to reopen the national abortion debate.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper rejected Stephen Woodworth's private member's motion in late April, but that didn't stop critics from accusing the Tories of using the proposal as a back-door way to rekindle debate over the sensitive topic.

Police estimated that there were fewer people than the 15,000 that the Campaign Life Coalition claimed attended last year's event.

The protesters called on the government to legislate protection for all human beings from the time of conception to the moment of natural death.

A few dozen pro-choice protesters were also on hand, some chanting "My body, my choice." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Undulating blob is a type of jellyfish: Expert

Captured by a deep-sea camera, this shot of a large blob has spawned a week of what-the-heck-is-that Internet speculation. Guesses have run from a plastic bag, to a floating whale placenta — to a jellyfish. Writing on his Facebook page, Dr. Steven Haddock of JellyWatch.org identifies the creature as Deepstaria enigmatica, a jellyfish. It's not that rare, but this one is large and it's rarely seen intact. YOUTUBE.COM

PM leaves door open

Gay marriage in New Zealand?

New Zealand PM John Key has broken a silence on gay marriage and left the door open for making it legal. The opposition leader also expressed support. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Teen bullying

Romney forcibly cut bangs of schoolmate

U.S. Republican presidential front-runner Mitt Romney admitted on Thursday he "did some dumb things" in high school. He issued a tepid apology over revelations he bullied and physically accosted a classmate who was presumed gay.

His remarks came in the wake of a Washington Post story that quotes several former Romney schoolmates as they recall the presidential wannabe holding down a classmate and forcibly cutting his blond bangs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama decided to back gay marriage before VP's remark

U.S. Biden says sorry to Obama for comments that led president to speed up his public acknowledgement of his support for same-sex unions: Source

U.S. President Barack Obama says he'd already decided to come out for gay marriage before Vice-President Joe Biden publicly endorsed it.

Obama tells ABC in an interview that he wasn't worried about being upstaged by Biden on the volatile social issue.

However, at one point, Obama says, "Would I have preferred to have done this in my own way, in my own terms without, I think, there being a lot of notice to everybody? Sure."

But Obama quickly adds, "All's well that ends well."

U.S. President Barack Obama
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He tells ABC's Robin Roberts that he "already made a decision to take this position" before Biden made his comments Sunday in response to a question in a nationally broadcast interview.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan endorsed gay marriage on Monday.

Obama says in Wednesday's interview — shown Thursday morning — he didn't revise his position as part of a re-election campaign ploy.

"It would be hard to argue that somehow this is something that I'd be doing for political advantage because, frankly, the politics, it's not clear how they're going to cut."

Several countries, mostly in Europe but also Canada, Argentina and South Africa, already allow gay marriage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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HAIL CAESAR

A CANADIAN CLASSIC THAT GOES WITH ANY OCCASION

IT'S BEEN MORE THAN 40 YEARS SINCE WALTER CHELL, BARTENDER AT THE OWL'S NEST BAR IN THE CALGARY INN, CREATED THE CAESAR

And the classic cocktail isn't showing any signs of slowing down. This summer, consider celebrating special times with some new twists on a Canadian classic.

A SIZZLING BACKYARD BBQ

Nothing says summer fun like a backyard barbecue. Why not combine charbroiled steak with a unique beverage option for your guests — a do-it-yourself Caesar bar, complete with a variety of colourful garnishes. The SMIRNOFF® Caesar is a drink you can prepare well in advance, and then store until you're ready to serve. Garnishes can be as fun and creative as you want. For example, consider serving up a buffet of dill pickles and olives, cucumber spears, cherry tomato skewers, pickled beans, peppers and asparagus. Treat the seafood lovers in the group to pickled prawns and refreshing lime or lemon wedges.

OH, CANADA, WHAT A WAY TO CELEBRATE!

What better way to celebrate July 1 than with distinctly Canadian food and beverage? Imagine a red and white-checkered tablecloth laden with Atlantic salmon, Pacific oysters, Alberta beef burgers, wild rice or other Canadian foodstuffs. Add the country's favourite cocktail, and it's O Canada all the way. Consider purchasing some inexpensive glasses and painting maple leafs on them. You can find paints and markers at your local craft store. When you're ready to add that all-important finishing touch — the rim — why not try a little BBQ steak rub with a cucumber garnish? This is one of SMIRNOFF'S summer-inspired cocktails — it's an easy way to enjoy the classic SMIRNOFF® Caesar, but with a twist!

ADD A GAME-DAY WINNER TO THE MENU

Thinking of getting together with friends to cheer on your favourite sports team, watch a soccer tourney, or take in a London 2012 Olympic event? Beer is fine, but why not add a real winner to the roster — a meat lover's SMIRNOFF® Caesar. Trade in the celery stick for a beef jerky strip and swap the rim of celery salt for crushed bacon bits. This combination of savoury flavours provides a tasty drink as well as a protein fix.

SMIRNOFF® CAESAR

1.5 oz SMIRNOFF® Vodka
Mott's Clamato™ Juice
3 dashes Tabasco™ Sauce
3 dashes Worcestershire™ Sauce

Rim the Collins glass with salt and pepper. Add ice, SMIRNOFF® Vodka and Mott's Clamato™ Juice. Top with 3 dashes each of Worcestershire™ Sauce and Tabasco™ Sauce. Garnish with celery stick and enjoy.

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Sochi. Chechens, Georgians blamed for foiled terror plot

Russian agents have foiled terror attack plans on the Black Sea resort of Sochi, host of the 2014 Winter Olympics, authorities said Thursday, blaming Chechen separatists and neighbouring Georgia for jointly masterminding the plans.

Georgian authorities and security experts, however, called the accusations "paranoid" and "hard to believe."

Russia's National Anti-Terrorist Committee said the FSB, the successor agency to the KGB, had discovered 10 caches of weapons and ammunition on May 4 and May 5 in Georgia's breakaway republic of Abkhazia, which lies just miles from Sochi.

The arms seized included portable surface-to-air missiles, grenade launchers, flame throwers, grenades, rifles, explosives and maps, the security service said.

Authorities said the terrorists were planning to smuggle the explosives and arms into Sochi "between 2012 and 2014 to use them during the preparations and during the games."

They did not elaborate on how they came to this conclusion.

Sochi is less than dozen miles away from Russia's border with Abkhazia, a tiny province that declared independence from Georgia in 2008.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ireland

Church rebuilding amid sex scandal

The archbishop of Dublin, a leading voice for reform following Ireland's devastating Catholic church sex-abuse scandal, says the church is trying to rebuild even as it confronts the ghosts of its past.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Europe

Merkel slams Ukraine repression

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is drawing a parallel between Ukraine and its authoritarian neighbour Belarus, saying the citizens of both countries are "still living under dictatorship and repression."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian jet sales in limbo after disastrous test flight

Sukhoi. Moscow jumps to plane's defence following crash in Indonesia that appears to have killed 45 aboard

In this photo released by the Indonesian Air Force, the remains of a missing Sukhoi Superjet-100 are scattered on the mountainside in Bogor, West Java, Indonesia, Thursday. The new Russian-made passenger plane disappeared Wednesday during a demonstration flight. INDONESIAN AIR FORCE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The crash of a new, Russian-made jetliner into a jagged Indonesian volcano during a flight to impress potential buyers threw doubt on dozens of plane sales Thursday just as Moscow seeks a comeback in foreign markets. All 45 people aboard were feared dead.

Search-and-rescue teams climbed through the mist-shrouded, jungly terrain for nearly 20 hours to reach the site where the plane roared in at nearly 800 km/h Wednesday, exploding and raining debris down a nearly vertical slope.

When the weather clears, bodies will have to be hoisted by nets and ropes onto hovering choppers, said Gagah Prakoso, a spokesman for the national search-and-rescue agency.

"We're still searching for survivors," he said. "But it doesn't look good."

The Sukhoi Superjet-100 — Russia's first new model of passenger jet since the fall of the Soviet Union two decades ago — was supposed to kick-start the nation's efforts to modernize its fleet and resurrect its neglected aerospace industry.

Indonesia, the fourth stop of a six-nation "Welcome Asia!" tour, was one of Sukhoi's brightest hopes, accounting for a big chunk of the 170 orders taken globally so far.

Kartika Airlines, Sky Aviation and Queen Air — among dozens of airlines to have popped up in the nation of 240 million to meet the growing demand for cheap air travel in the last decade — together were aiming to buy at least 48.

"We will wait for the result of the investigation before making any further (purchasing) decisions," said Arifin Seman, one of the top executives at Kartika.

Krisman Tarigan, president-director of Sky, said he "wouldn't rule out cancellation if it turned out the crash occurred because the plane was not airworthy."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Technology

Samsung unwraps ultra-thin OLED TV

Samsung Electronics Co. said Thursday that it is aiming to launch flat-panel TVs using new screen technology called OLED during the second half of this year in the domestic market.

Samsung said the 55-inch TV using the ultra-thin display will be retailed at over 10 million won, or more than $9,000 US. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kim Hyun-suk, head of Samsung's TV business, right, and a model pose with a 55-inch Samsung OLED TV during a press conference in Seoul Thursday. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

StatsCan

Canadian farms drop 10 per cent in five years: Census

New census numbers from Statistics Canada show the number of Canadian farms is continuing to shrink.

The 2011 census of agriculture shows the number of farms in the country has dropped by about 23,000, or 10.3 per cent, since 2006.

The agency says farmers are consolidating their operations, leading to a nearly seven per cent spike in the size of the average farm.

The data also suggests Canada's farmers are re-evaluating the types of crops they produce.

The farming industry's main crops used to be evenly split between beef and grain, but the latest numbers showed a drop in the number of beef farmers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Google. Bing builds search showcase

Microsoft's Bing search engine is heading in a new direction as it drills deeper into Facebook's social network and Twitter's messaging service to showcase information unlikely to be found on Google.

The changes, unveiled Thursday, will reshape how Bing displays its search results. It represents Microsoft's most dramatic shift in Internet search since the software maker introduced Bing as a "decision engine" nearly three years ago.

Microsoft Corp. is counting on the new format to loosen Google's stranglehold on the lucrative Internet search market. In the process, Microsoft hopes to turn a profit in its online division, which has lost more than $6.3 billion US since Bing's June 2009 debut.

Bing replaced "Live Search," a mostly futile attempt to challenge Google. Microsoft touted Bing as a Google alternative that would provide more meaningful results by helping people make important decisions, such as picking a doctor and finding the best time to buy an airline ticket.

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Women control family purse strings: Survey

Mother's Day. In 82 per cent of Canadian households, women are either the primary decision-maker or have equal responsibility for financial decisions

Men still make the most money in the average household, but it's women who control the purse strings.

While that's been acknowledged informally for some time in Canada, a new survey by the Bank of Montreal suggests there is no reason to doubt the truism.

In a report tied to Mother's Day, the bank says a recent survey of about 1,500 people shows that in 82 per cent of Canadian households, women are either the primary decision-maker or have equal responsibility for financial decisions.

"We can still say women earn less than men over their entire career ... but they do make around 80 per cent of the decisions around spending," said Tina Di Vito, head of BMO's retirement division.

"Even on things like the family car, women are very involved in selecting a car that is appropriate for their needs."

The BMO report, done in conjunction with Boston Consulting Group, shows women are also gaining financial power by virtue of their earnings and now control about one-third of all wealth in North America.

Still, the study released Thursday suggests women remain on average less confident than men about finances.

Men are more likely than women to have investments and a financial plan by a factor 62 per cent versus 52 per cent, the bank said. They also tend to be less prepared for retirement due to a variety of factors, including lower earnings, intermittent work histories and longer life spans.

Di Vito said the gap is closing in many areas where women are lagging.

"There is still a gap, but it's getting less and less. Even in the area of retirement, baby-boomer women are the first generation of women retirees that actually control their own personal wealth," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The climbing Corvette

Crews begin to remove the steel cage around a 2012 Corvette valued at $50,000 US, after they attached it to a pole 42 feet above Evansville, Ind., on Wednesday. Larry Bennett built the lot in 1970 where he first placed a brand-new orange Corvette as an ornament for the dealership's business sign. The business will offer up to 200 used vehicles at the location. JASON CLARK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 99.83¢ (-0.08¢)

TSX 11,736.17 (+61.16)

OIL $97.08 US (+27¢)

GOLD $1,595.50 US (+$1.30)

Natural gas: $2.487 (+2.2¢)
Dow Jones: 12,855.04 (+19.98)

DICTATOR GOING TO BE A RIOT

THE LIST
Neil Morton
Metro

1 **Steve (GM) Nash:** Canada's men's national basketball team is in great hands after the announcement that two-time NBA MVP Steve Nash has been named general manager. What would make things even sweeter is if the Victoria native, who is a free agent this off-season, signs with the Toronto Raptors. Captain Canada, Captain Toronto.

2 **Walk a mile in her shoes:** This international men's march to stop rape, sexual assault and gender violence gives men, women and families the opportunity to raise awareness in their communities about the impact of sexualized violence by walking in women's high-heeled shoes.
Join a walk in your community or start your own by visiting walkamileinhershoes.org.

3 **The Dictator:** Admiral General Shabazz Aladeen is a dictator from the Republic of Wadiya and appeared on the Today Show with Matt Lauer this week with a handful of guards, and made some threatening remarks. Luckily, Aladeen is actually actor Sacha Baron Cohen, who was promoting his new comedy The Dictator, which opens May 16. Go see it. It will be a riot.

4 **Emily is back:** Emily Maynard, whose romance with former bachelor Brad Womack did not work out after he proposed to her, is the new Bachelorette. It premieres May 14, and suitors include a data-destruction specialist — fitting for the show, perhaps, with its high percentage of failed romances. Heck, even its host Chris Harrison recently announced he's splitting from his wife.

5 **Mark Zuckerberg's b-day:** Billionaire boy Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook — one of the most powerful brands on the planet (and soon-to-go IPO) — turns the ripe old age of 28 this Sunday. Before he hits 30, I predict Zuckerberg will create a transporter that will beam us up to other planets. We can share those planetary pics on Facebook.

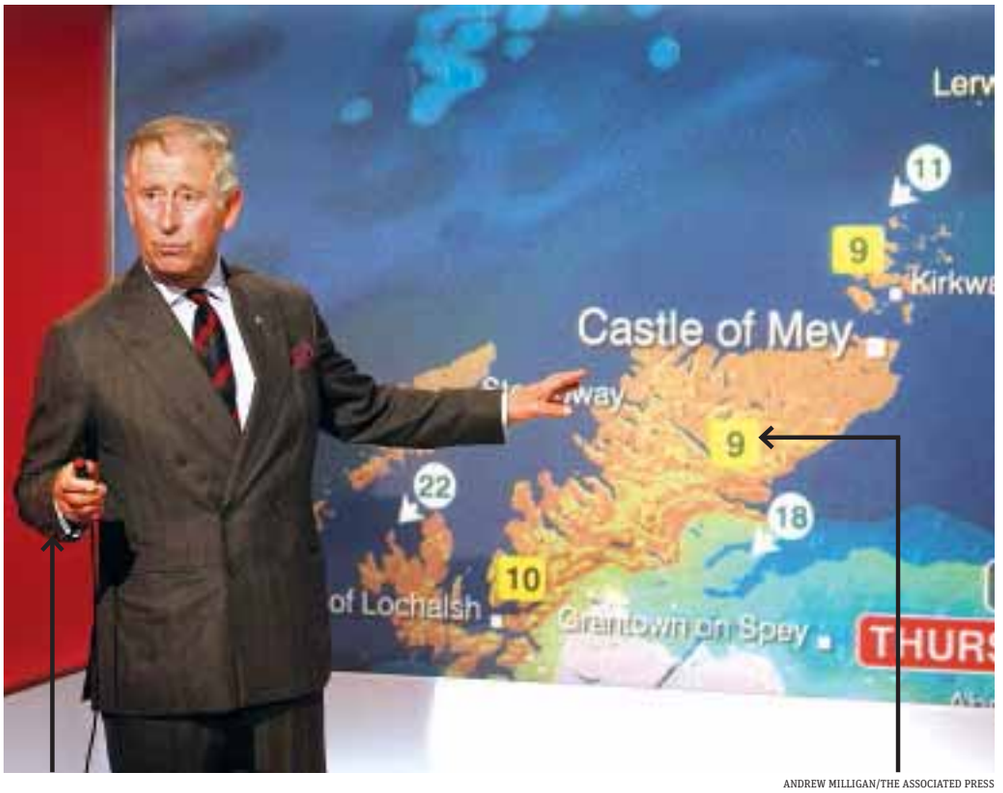
6 **Desperate Housewives finale:** The now iconic Wisteria Lane will be no more after this Sunday when Desperate Housewives bids adieu to fans in a two-hour finale. Many former cast members will be returning for this tear-fest. The only consolation is knowing that there are still so many real-life desperate housewives we can continue to gossip about.

7 **Klout:** Klout.com, a social app that measures your social-media reach, is all the talk right now with the cool kids. If you have a high "klout" score (the highest you can get is 100 — only Justin Bieber has that), the more influential you are online. I have no idea what my score is, but please follow me @neilmorton, tweet at me, and re-tweet my tweets and I won't be as scared to look.

8 **Chris Rumble:** This leukemia patient/young filmmaker/hero at Seattle Children's Hospital created an amazing video, Stronger: Seattle Children's Hospital, starring (and empowering) fellow cancer patients who are going through painful chemotherapy. Performed to Kelly Clarkson's song Stronger, the video has gone viral on YouTube this week. Brilliant.

9 **Copenhagen Philharmonic ... in the subway:** The Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra did a terrific flash mob in the Copenhagen Metro subway, and the video already has nearly a million views this week. With flash mobs becoming ubiquitous, I'm thinking of starting a 24-7 flash mob that never stops flash-mobbing in a grand social experiment. Watch out.

Prince weatherman



ANDREW MILLIGAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's reigning

Britons get a surprise on BBC

If this king thing doesn't work out, Prince Charles may be able to fall back on a budding career as a weatherman.

The heir to the British throne and his wife, Camilla, gave it a try Thursday, each reading out weather reports during a visit to BBC studios in Glasgow.

The sight of the nattily dressed Charles giving a credible performance in the unfamiliar role caused many Britons to do a double-take as he read the lunchtime news weather spot.

The prince delivered a nearly perfect performance.

Palace officials say Charles and Camilla were visiting the studios to mark the 60-year anniversary of BBC TV Scotland. The visit was also part of the pair's annual Holyrood week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, reads the weather on the BBC.
ANDREW MILLIGAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Just kidding

"There's potential for a few flurries over Balmoral. Who the hell wrote this script?"

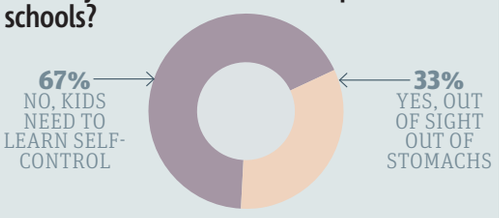
The heir to the throne ad-libbed while reading the afternoon weather report.

British actor Sacha Baron Cohen arrives for the world premiere of The Dictator on Thursday in London. JONATHAN SHORT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should junk food be banned in public schools?



Twitter

@KariRennie: I just can't follow someone who quotes themselves on Twitter.

@JCVH60: #fanshawe honoured by a return visit today of graduate @SimonOstler

@lisafriedland: back on campus for a visit #missthis #westernu

@FM96Baker: Baba Ghanoush & Cottage Cheese just got married in my mouth. Jury's still out on the Flavour-Union verdict

@jeffpreston: Girls from CCH are screaming "Starships" at the top of their lungs on Dundas right now. Who needs a radio when you have live music?

@CourtinCanada: Hey Western Students! Are you approved for summer work study? We are hiring two work study positions job posting #20135 #westernu

metro

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Save money. Live better.

A little red ball can help change it all
Jumpstart

Will Prometheus live up to its artistic and creepy space opera potential? HANDOUT

The hot flicks of summer

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Preview. Crouse and Breslin share their picks for popcorn season — Prometheus and The Dark Knight Rises top the list

Richard: Mark, as summer movie titles go, Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter has to be the grabbiest. Either that or Piranha 3DD. Both sound like fun Saturday afternoon matinees, but for nighttime viewing I think I'm most looking forward to Prometheus, the sort-of prequel to Alien. It's Ridley Scott in sci-fi mode, which means we can expect an artistic and creepy space opera with cool effects and a face-hugger or two.

Mark: Yes, I'm looking forward to Prometheus as well. But am I foolish to secretly count down the days to Rock of Ages, the '80s hair-metal musical? I avoided the live show but the trailer looked like a hoot! C'mon, Richard — Tom Cruise in a blond shag rockin' out to Foreigner hits? The art of cinema just doesn't get any better!

RC: I hope Rock of Ages is as loud and proud as the music it covers. Forget 3D for this one, give me Odorama! I want to smell the gallons of Aqua Net it must have taken to give Alec Baldwin that hair! Also likely on the loud and proud side should be The Bourne Legacy. Jeremy Renner is stepping in for Matt Damon who made the character famous. Renner is all kinds of awesome, but let's see if he can duke out like Damon.

MB: Reboots make me nervous, Richard. They work too hard or not hard enough.

Synopsis

Everybody knows the official first day of summer is Wednesday June 20, but in movie theatres the silly season actually starts earlier. In fact, it began last weekend with the release of The Avengers, the boffo superhero movie that kicked off the balmy blockbuster season. This week the Reel Guys have a look at the superhero stories, remakes, reboots, reimaginings and more we'll be watching during air conditioner season.

Which brings us to Total Recall, one of my favourite dystopian sci-fi films. Will it be better than the Schwarzenegger version? Worse? Will Colin Farrell run for governor someday? Don't know, but I can't wait to see it. Also Ted, the talking, wisecracking, R-rated teddy bear movie. If this were not Seth Macfarlane's movie, I'd totally avoid it, but the trailer is hysterical!

RC: The red band trailer for Ted made me laugh harder than almost anything else I've seen this year. It'll be rude and crude, but I think Mark Wahlberg is an underrated comic actor, so I'm excited. I can't believe we've gotten to this point and haven't mentioned the caped elephant in the room, The Dark Knight Rises. I saw six minutes of this on an IMAX screen and it made my mind grapes tingle. And I cannot wait to see the rest.

MB: It will be the movie of the summer, the box office hit of the year, and turn Tom Hardy into a household name. I'll probably camp out in line the night before it opens.

2 SCENE

Celebrity buzz

Brand returns

Russell Brand is returning to the MTV stage. The 36-year-old comedian has signed on to host the 2012 MTV Movie Awards. "This MTV Movie Awards will be more impressive than The Avengers, and you won't have to wait an hour for someone to Hulk out," Brand said Thursday. After hosting MTV's Video Music Awards in 2008 and 2009, Brand took on leading roles in films such as Get Him to the Greek, Arthur and Rock of Ages, which hits theatres next month. This is his first time hosting the MTV Movie Awards

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Ubisoft assembling Avengers video game for Kinect, Wii U

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GETTING IN THE GAME

CANADIAN TIRE JUMPSTART CHARITIES HAS HELPED MORE THAN 400,000 KIDS PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS

Jonathan Hood spends a lot of time telling young people about his own athletic journey. For the Hamilton Tiger-Cats defensive back, sharing the lessons he has learned with others is an important part of the job. "Sports can teach you how to win and lose gracefully and how to get along with other people," he says. "It can also teach you about teamwork, group dynamics and life skills."

When Hood isn't honing his own impressive football skills, he works as a public speaker, mentor and coach. He runs a camp in the off-season that teaches young players the fundamentals of football. He's involved with the GTA Youth Athletics Club and has spearheaded MPower, an organization that provides leadership skills and mentoring for at-risk youth. Plus, he speaks to high school students every chance he gets.

These days Hood is spreading his message about sport in another way, through his involvement with Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities. He's one of a number of elite Canadian athletes who have lent their names and images to a 12-month calendar that will raise funds for Canadian Tire Jumpstart's many sport and recreational programs.

The list of participants in the calendar is impressive. Four-time world figure-skating champion Kurt Browning, champion high jumper Nicole Forrester, Chicago Black Hawks star Jonathan Toews and hockey gold medallist Sami Jo Small were all chosen because of their continuing support for Canadian Tire Jumpstart.

Since 2005, Canadian Tire Jumpstart has helped more than 400,000 children participate in sports and recreation programs. But with one-third of Canadian families unable to enrol their children in sports programs because of cost, many kids are still missing out on the health benefits, self-esteem and camaraderie that participating in sports can offer.

Add to that the fact that budget cuts across the country mean less physical education and extracurricular activity in school. What's more, childhood obesity is dramatically on the rise, along with a general perception that neighbourhoods aren't safe places to play anymore.

Hood believes it's up to everyone in a community to do their part to support youth sports and activities. "You have to look at yourself," he says. "If you were coached and mentored when you were a kid, you are better off for it. Programs like Canadian Tire Jumpstart are opportunities to let young people achieve their dreams. We should all support that."

Jumpstart

JUMPSTART DAY IN MAY

On May 26, most Canadian Tire stores in Canada will host fun activities and draws to help raise money for their local community. Examples of this year's Jumpstart Day events include car washes, barbecues, draws and raffles.

Throughout May, Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities is asking Canadians to donate $2 for its popular red ball in one of two new designs (a basketball and a baseball) to support Jumpstart Day. The One Million Red Ball (OneMillionRedBalls.ca) campaign kicked off on May 4. Customers can pick up a ball at Canadian Tire stores and Gas+ locations, Mark's and Pita Pit locations.

"We're challenging Canadians to raise $1 million through the sale of the balls," says Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities president Dan Thompson.

KIDS GET A JUMPSTART ON SPORTS

Every child in Canada has the right to participate in sports and recreation activities, but many families can't afford the fees. Since Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities was established in 2005, it has helped more than 400,000 children aged four to 18 take part in such activities as swimming, dance, tae kwon do, soccer, basketball and learn-to-bike programs.

"We cover the cost of registration, equipment and/or transportation," says Dan Thompson, the president of Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities. "We also lend support to unique community-based initiatives aimed at increasing access to sport and recreation programs."

More than 300 local chapters across the country partner with such community organizations as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Clubs, parks and recreation departments, sports associations — even the police. It means that Canadian Tire Jumpstart transforms not only a child's life, but also an entire community.

An incredible 100 per cent of customer donations go directly to help kids in financial need take part in organized sport and recreation. And any Canadian Tire Jumpstart fundraising done locally stays in that community.

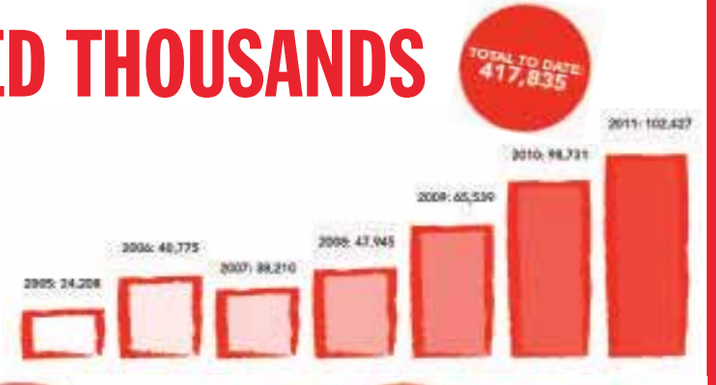
Kids get so much more than the physical health benefits of exercise from playing sports or dancing. "They also gain self-confidence and learn leadership skills," says Thompson. "We want Canadians to try to imagine how different their lives might be now if they hadn't been able to do these activities when they were young."

Applications for assistance can be submitted from Jan. 15 to June 1 for spring/summer programs, and from July 1 to Nov. 1 for fall/winter programs. Applicants will be notified by their local Canadian Tire Jumpstart chapter representative if they've been approved or if more details are needed. All of the information is kept confidential.

Visit canadiantire.ca/jumpstart or call 1-877-616-6600 to learn more.

WE'VE HELPED THOUSANDS

In 2011, thanks to generous donations and fundraising efforts, we helped 102,427 kids participate in 71 activities. From swim club to hockey camp, from football to dance, Canadian Tire Jumpstart funds are reaching the kids who need it the most.



A COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER

St. Thomas, Ont., near London was once a thriving community with strong ties to the automotive-manufacturing sector. When the recession hit, thousands of residents lost their jobs at plants that were shuttered. The main priority of those families was to keep a roof over their heads, not to ensure that their children stayed active.

Luckily, a group of citizens composed mainly of teachers and parents in the Lockes-Morrison area came together to figure out how to keep kids in the area active. Two schools provided facilities for a summer program, while the citizens' group worked with parents and sports organizations to develop what would become the Lockes-Morrison Community Program.

Thanks to the program, in the summer of 2010 more than 400 children were enrolled in soccer, dance, martial arts and basketball in the community. "Canadian Tire Jumpstart provided equipment and registration fees to get the program running," says Harry Bell, the Ontario regional manager of Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities.

When the kids went back to school that September, more than 150 participated in the fall/winter session. Community collaboration is the secret behind the success of the Lockes-Morrison Community Program — and kids are the biggest beneficiaries.

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING CANADIAN TIRE JUMPSTART

Jumpstart OneMillionRedBalls.ca

Sir Ben Kingsley brings a touch of class to Sacha Baron Cohen's comedy

The Dictator. From Gandhi to General Aladeen's uncle — Kingsley is always up for a challenge

HEIDI PATALANO
Metro World News in New York

The man who played Gandhi has portrayed many other heavy characters throughout his long career, but a king of comedy he's never been. Sir Ben Kingsley is the first to own up to this, but it seems worth a shot in order to work with a man whom he mentions in the same breath as Charlie Chaplin.

"The great ones, like Chaplin and Sacha Baron Cohen make it look effortless," he says.

"It's not effortless."

In the latest film from the man responsible for Ali G, Borat and Bruno, Sir Kingsley portrays the menacing uncle of Admiral General Aladeen (Cohen), the dictator of fictional African nation Wadiya. Though he's not dropping the one-liners the way Baron Cohen gets to, this English actor brings an air of sophistication to the film.

With any Sacha Baron Cohen project, the humour comes out of how truthful it is. What's the most important 'serious message' in the film?

I am hoping personally that it will reveal in people perhaps some hidden fears or prejudices. ... (Baron Cohen and his creative team) voice certain phobias, prejudices. … It might cause people to feel resentment, not offense, because Sacha's character is saying things that, if they said it, they would be arrested or lose their job, but they are capable of saying those things. I think that's where satire is really valuable. Those that are made to feel uncomfortable will feel resentful that in their enforced political correctness, they're not allowed to be anti-Semitic. 'Like, why can that f—ker up there say it and if I say it, I'll lose my job!'"

You got to spend a lot of time holding Baron Cohen's hand throughout the film. How was that for you?

That is the relationship, you see. I am his uncle, and I know that he's still a child, so whatever street he has to cross, be it in the UN or arriving in New York, or going to a nuclear facility, he's crossing a street. I know he's a total idiot and I've done nothing to further his education, or his well being. It's better for my character, the uncle, to infantilize and keep him there.

Sacha Baron Cohen was responsible for Borat which many have said was one of the best movies of the last decade, but it did not receive a Best Picture Oscar nomination. Why do comedies never win that category?

I think there's this misconception that's completely understandable, that comedy is easy — that we're basically having fun. All we're doing is fooling around in front of a camera. I could talk for years trying to dispel this myth but nobody wants to hear it. Sacha was talking to me about the science of comedy — how he numerically grades from one to ten, the value of a certain reaction. Where it is in the film, in the editing, whether to go for two sevens or cut them and go for a ten and always to keep poking at the nerve ... that prejudiced nerve.

Ben Kingsley plays uncle to Sacha Baron Cohen's character General Aladeen in The Dictator. HANDOUT

So then would you put this performance on par with playing Gandhi?

My body chemistry changes to the same degree on the word action, no matter what I'm doing. Whether it's a marathon or a series of sprints, I still have to use the same muscles, so I can't really differentiate.

Comedy

Dark Shadows

Director. Tim Burton

Stars. Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer, Eva Green

Watching Tim Burton's big budget cinematic relaunch of Dan Curtis' cult '60s daytime soap opera Dark Shadows is like being trapped in some sort of drug laced alternate universe … and that's a good thing. Burton casts his muse Johnny Depp as vampire Barnabas Collins, who is freed from his coffin in 1972 after being put there by his spurned lover centuries before. How he copes with a disenfranchised America and his ancestors is campy fun for sure. Outside of the surrealism, this is really just a soap opera after all. It's also one of the bravest, weirdest studio films this critic has ever seen.

CHRIS ALEXANDER

Drama

The Forgiveness of Blood

Director. Joshua Marston

Stars. Tristan Halilaj, Sindi Lacej

There's no denying that American Joshua Marston skillfully captures the clash of cultural mores of Albanian blood feuds in The Forgiveness of Blood. However, this tale about a family confined to their property for fear of reprisal after the patriarch kills someone suffers from its own story's state of stagnation. While authenticity helps sell the drama, Forgiveness still can't match the tension of Marston's previous hit, Maria Full of Grace.

STEVE GOW

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MAY 11 TO THURS., MAY 17. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Mustang Drive-In -London
2551 Wilton Grove Rd.

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Sun 11:40 Tue 11:40 Thu 11:40
American Reunion (14A) Fri-Sat 9:15 Sun 11:15 Tue 11:15 Thu 11:15
The Five-Year Engagement (14A) Fri-Sat 11:15 Sun 9:15 Tue 9:15 Thu 9:15
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Sun 9:10 Tue 9:10 Thu 9:10

Hyland Cinema
240 Wharncliffe Road South

Being Flynn (14A) Fri 9 Sat 1-7 Sun 1-9 Mon 1-5 Tue 7 Wed 3 Thu 1-9
Bully (PG) Fri-Sun 5 Mon 7 Tue 1 Wed 1-5 Thu 5
Footnote (14A) Fri 1 Sat 3 Sun 7 Mon 3 Tue 5 Wed 9 Thu 7
The Forgiveness of Blood (14A) Fri 3-7 Sat 9 Sun 3 Mon 9 Tue 3-9 Wed 7 Thu 3

Rainbow Cinemas London
355 Wellington St.

Chimpanzee (G) Fri-Tue 1:25-3:30-7:15-9
Dark Shadows (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:50-7:05-9:40
The Dictator (STC) Wed-Thu 1:25-3:30-7:15-9:15
The Five-Year Engagement (14A) Fri-Wed 1:15-3:55-6:55-9:35 Thu 1-3:55-6:55-9:35
The Hunger Games (14A) Fri-Tue 1:05-4-6:50-9:45 Wed 4-6:50-9:45 Thu 1:05-4-6:50-9:45
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-1-3:45-4-6:45-7-9:30-9:45
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:15-7:10-9:10
Western Film Room 340, UCC Building,
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri-Thu 7

Wellington 8 Cinemas
983 Wellington Rd. S

Dark Shadows (14A) No Passes Fri 7-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:30-4:15-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 7-9:50
The Dictator (STC) Wed-Thu 6:50-9:20
The Five-Year Engagement (14A) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:30
The Lucky One (PG) Fri 7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-7:15-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:45
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 12:45-4-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (PG) Fri 6:45-8-10 Sat-Sun 12:15-1:15-3:30-4:30-6:45-8-10 Mon-Thu 6:45-8-10
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (PG) Sat-Sun 1
The Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (PG) Fri 6:30 Sat-Sun 4:10-6:30 Mon-Tue 6:30
The Raven (18A) Fri-Tue 9:20
Safe (14A) Fri 7:10-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:40-7:10-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:35

Cineplex Odeon Westmount & VIP Cinemas
755 Wonderland Road South,

Dark Shadows (14A) Fri 5:20-8-10:45 Sat 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:45 Sun 12-2:30-5:05-7:40-10:25 Mon 7:30-10:15 Tue 4:50-7:30-10:15 Wed-Thu 7:30-10:15 Fri 4:35-7:45-10:40 Sat 1:30-4:35-7:45-10:40 Sun 1:30-4:35-7:45-10:30 Mon 7:45-10:30 Tue 4:35-7:45-10:30 Wed 7:45-10:30 Thu 7:20-10:20
The Dictator (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 7:50-10
The Five-Year Engagement (14A) Fri 4:55-7:50-10:45 Sat 2-4:55-7:50-10:45 Sun 1:30-4:20-7:20-10:15 Mon 7:20-10:25 Tue 4:25-7:20-10:25 Wed-Thu 7:20-10:25 Fri-Sat 4:05-7:15 Sun 1-4:05-7:15 Mon 7:15 Tue 4:05-7:15 Wed 7:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Hunger Games (14A) Fri 3:45-7-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:45-7-10:10 Mon 7-10:10 Tue 3:45-7-10:10 Wed 9:50 Thu 7-10:10
The Lucky One (PG) Fri 5:40-8:10-10:40 Sat 12:50-3:15-5:40-8:10-10:40 Sun 12:15-2:45-5:20-7:50-10:20 Mon 10 Tue 4:50-8-10:30
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri 3:30-6:40-10 Sat-Sun 12-3:20-6:40-10 Mon 6:40-9:50 Tue 3:30-6:40-9:50 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:50 Fri-Sat 10:15 No Passes Sun-Wed 10:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 3:50-4:20-7:10-7:40-10:30-10:55 No Passes Sat 12:30-1-3:50-4:20-7:10-7:40-10:30-10:55 No Passes Sun 12:30-1:45-3:50-5-7:10-8:15-10:30 No Passes Mon 7:10-8:15-10:20 No Passes Tue 4-5-7:10-8:15-10:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 7:10-8:15-10:20 No Passes Fri 3:35-6:45-9:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-3:35-6:45-9:50 No Passes Mon 6:45-9:50 No Passes Tue 3:35-6:45-9:50 No Passes Wed 6:45-9:50 No Passes Thu 6:50-9:55
The Metropolitan Opera: Die Walk¸re Encore (STC) Sat 10
Metropolitan Opera: Manon Lescaut - Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (PG) Sat-Sun 12:40
The Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (PG) Fri 5:10-7:25-9:40 Sat-Sun 2:55-5:10-7:25-9:40 Mon 7:25 Tue 5:10-7:25-9:40 Wed-Thu 7:25-9:40
Siegfried Wagner Opera (STC) Thu 6:30
A Streetcar Named Desire (STC) Wed 7

SilverCity London
1680 Richmond St,

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri 12:10-2:50-5:30-8:10-11 Sat 5:30-8:10-11 Sun-Mon 1:25-4:20-7:05-9:40 Tue 1:25-4:20-7:05-10:05 Wed 1:25-4:20-7:05-9:40 Thu 1:25-4:20-10:35
American Reunion (14A) Fri-Tue 7:50-10:25
Chicken Run (PG) Sat 11
Chimpanzee (G) Fri-Sun 11:35-1:35-3:35-5:35 Mon 1:35-3:35-5:35 Tue 3:55-5:50
Dark Shadows (14A) No Passes Fri-Sat 11:50-2:40-5:20-8-10:50 No Passes Sun-Mon 1:15-4:15-7-9:55 No Passes Tue 1:15-4:15-7:40-10:40 No Passes Wed 4:15-7-9:55 No Passes Thu 1:15-4:15-7-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Dark Shadows: The IMAX Experience (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:30-5-7:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 5-7:30
The Dictator (STC) No Passes Wed 1:30-4:45-7:10-9:35 No Passes Thu 1:30-3:55-7:10-8:20-10:25
The Five-Year Engagement (14A) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:55-7:45-10:35 Sun-Mon 1:20-4:05-7-9:50 Tue-Thu 1:20-4:05-6:45-9:50
The Hunger Games (14A) Fri-Sat 12:50-4:10-7:35-10:45 Sun 12:50-4:10-7:35-10:30 Mon-Thu 12:45-4:10-7:35-10:30
The Lucky One (PG) Fri 12:40-3:15-5:45-8:05-10:40 Sat 12:10-3-5:45-8:05-10:40 Sun-Thu 1-4-6:55-9:45
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:30 No Passes Mon 12:50-3:55-7-10:30 No Passes Tue 12:50-3:55-7:30-10:45 No Passes Wed 12:50-3:55-7-10:25 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:55-7-10:35
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-3:20-6:40-10 No Passes Mon 12:30-3:35-6:40-10 No Passes Tue 12:30-3:35-6:50-10 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-3:35-6:40-10 No Passes Fri 1-4:20-7:40-10:55 No Passes Sat 10-1:15-4:30-7:40-10:55 No Passes Sun 11:30-2:45-6:10-9:30 No Passes Mon-Wed 12:10-3:15-6:20-9:30 No Passes Thu 12:10-3:15-6:20-9:40
Marvel's the Avengers: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 2-10:15
The Metropolitan Opera: Die Walk¸re Encore (STC) Sat 10
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20
The Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (PG) Fri-Wed 2:30-4:40-6:50-9 Thu 2:20-4:20-6:20
Siegfried Wagner Opera (STC) Thu 6:30
Think Like a Man (PG) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:25-7:15-10:20 Wed 4:25-7:15-10:20 Thu 1:30-4:25-7:15-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

The Avengers 2: The dream team

Who will appear in the sequel? We guess which characters, and the actors who should play them. Captain America, Iron Man, Thor, the Hulk, Hawkeye and Black Widow may have made an impressive roster in The Avengers, but there are more superheroes that are up to the task of saving Earth. In honour of The Avengers 2, announced this week, here are some other characters that have claimed affiliation with the Avengers at one point in Marvel's history.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Ant-Man

Powers
He can grow or shrink to any size. Also, he can control an army of ants telepathically.

Who should play him
Simon Pegg. He showed us he can play the nerdy mathematician role in Star Trek, which means he would probably make a good nerdy scientist.

Likelihood this is going to happen
There's already an Ant-Man movie in the works with director Edgar Wright penning the script alongside Joe Cornish. Seeing that Pegg and Wright are frequent collaborators, we think — well hope — we'll see this tiny crusader in the next giant blockbuster. Plus, he co-founded The Avengers team. He deserves a spot.

Venom

Powers
He's basically another version of Spider-Man — except super evil and much stronger.

Who should play him
Jason Statham. Definitely not Topher Grace.

Likelihood this is going to happen
Venom was already in Spider-Man 3, which was distributed by Sony, so the character faces the Wolverine dilemma. However, one could argue that this Venom is a technically different character, so who knows.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Wolverine

Powers
Besides his accelerated healing process, he's got an adamantium-bonded skeleton. Plus, you don't want to get in the way of his claws.

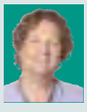
Who should play him
Hugh Jackman. He's the definitive Wolverine.

Likelihood this is going to happen
Sadly, because Wolverine has already starred in 20th Century Fox movies and the rights to that character is owned by the studio, it's unlikely that he'll be allowed to appear in a Disney/Paramount/Marvel property. But, one can dream.

Bernie Finkelstein

Bernie Finkelstein pioneered indie music. BERNARD WEIL/THE TORONTO STAR

Reflections on a life in indie music



SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Bernie Finkelstein sounds relaxed over the phone from his getaway in Prince Edward County. Fruits of having sold his True North Records in late 2007? "A little bit," he says, "although it's more about more free time. I've gone from 21 acts to managing just one, plus I closed the office in Toronto."

Bernie is being asked to talk a lot about himself these days with the publication of his autobiography, True North: A Life in the Music Business which starts his time as an air force brat through all his years running one of the most important and most successful independent music labels in this country. True North also had interests in artist management, music publishing and concert promotion.

"I thought I'd better write down these memories so that maybe one day in the future when someone is researching the history of Canadian music, they can find my book on a dusty library shelf somewhere — if those things still exist — and use it to tell the story."

Bernie is concerned about Canadians' short memory when it comes to musical heritage. "Feist was not the first person to have a No. 1 hit on a Canadian independent label. Have we forgotten about what Sarah McLachlan did on Nettwerk?"

True North was founded in 1969, two years before Canadian content regulations went into effect. "You have to understand that back then there was no Canadian music industry. Starting a record label was a very risky thing to do." By the time he sold the label, the company had made national and international stars out of artists such as Bruce Cockburn, Murray McLaughlin and Rough Trade.

"I took the profits I made from Bruce's breakthrough album [Dancing in the Dragon's Jaws in 1979] and wanted to invest in a rock band. The big companies were afraid of Rough Trade and their sexual politics but I saw them as great songwriters in the True North tradition. "High School Confidential" became a hit and the album [Avoid Freud] went double platinum."

Bernie's book is filled with anecdotes like that. If you want an idea some of the ways Canada acquired its status as a world music power, pick it up. Trust me.

Spektor's new album is full of surprises, even for her

Eclectic repertoire. Singer-songwriter says she forgets some of her old songs as she's busy making new ones

Regina Spektor is more than happy to see her fans put their videos of her live performances online. GETTY

PAT HEALY
Metro News in Boston

Regina Spektor would really appreciate it if you could put your camera phone videos of her performances up online.

Not only do those videos help her remember how the new songs she is working out in concert go, but they also help her retrieve songs that she forgets how to play.

"In Florida I had to go online and go to YouTube and figure out the chords," she says of a song from her 2009 album, "Far." "I've written so much stuff since then that I've pushed it out of my head."

And as far as the bootlegs of songs in progress go, she says if not for those phone videos, the songs "Patron Saint" and "Open" probably wouldn't have even made it onto her new album, What We Saw from the Cheap Seats.

"I got lucky that it was up there, actually," she says.

It's hard to believe that the singer would forget the latter song, because its repetition of dramatic inhalation during the chorus seems so instantly memorable. But Spektor does a lot of memorable things to make listeners forget that for most of her album and her live performance it's just her voice and her piano. In the new song, "The Party" she purses her lips together to fake a trumpet part.

"When I wrote it, in my mind it was just a placeholder for a real trumpet," she says. "First of all, it's really fun to do; it's a fun feeling, like even walking around the house being a trumpet. If you bring things from their implied state to a real state, sometimes it becomes better and sometimes, I don't know ... you try to feel what's right for the song."

Spektor says her producer, Mike Elizondo, teased her that when she beatboxes she sounds like a drum machine from the 1980s.

"I do a lot of things, like certain little beats and sounds, because I'm a person with a piano and that's it," she says.

Spektor has been touring with Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers for the past few weeks, playing large venues that give the title of her upcoming album new meaning.

"I love Tom Petty so much that I didn't want to be the person that came and their audience didn't like," she says. "But everyone's been so amazing to me."

As for the Cheap Seats title, Spektor says it was in her head before she even knew what the album was going to sound like.

"I've been in all kind of seats," she says, "and everything has its beauty, and that's sort of the whole point of the world — you always get something and you let go of something and each thing has its plusses and its minuses."

Artist snapshot

Regina Spektor's life has taken some interesting turns.

- **Moscow by the Hudson.** She was born in Moscow (then the capital of the Soviet Union) in 1980, and grew up in the Bronx.
- **Colourful past.** She worked on a Wisconsin butterfly farm while attending college.
- **The show must go on.** Her cellist, Dan Cho, drowned the day before her emotional performance at the Montreux Jazz Festival in 2010.

There are now 12 members of Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros. Their new album is called Here. HANDOUT

Edward Sharpe and the Zeros get a little more 'all-togethery'

Here. New album definitely more of a team effort says lead singer Alex Ebert

PAT HEALY
Metro World News

When asked how the writing process differed between Up From Below, the 2009 debut from Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros and their upcoming album, Here, singer Alex Ebert is quick to give credit to the 11 other members of his band.

"It was a little more all-togethery," he says. "We all sat around and worked on arrangements together."

Ebert may have just coined the phrase, "all-togethery" on the spot, but it's quite an accurate description. A few of the songs on Here don't even feature a lead vocal and are more like group sing-alongs.

"As we became a band over the last three years, doing all these radio sessions, we would sing together in an acoustic environment, really hearing each other," says Ebert.

Like its predecessor, the album is full of fun, funky folk, but with more of a focus.

"I don't tend to put out stuff that has a major thematic through-line," says Ebert. "I tend to do what my detractor's would call unfocused albums."

The theme of Here seems to be a sort of reckoning with the evils of the world and finding goodness and spirituality within oneself, independent of any organized religion.

"I would say it's an immense amount of defiance in the face of what would otherwise create a dejected character," says Ebert. "Defiance in the will to perceive things as possible, and hopeful and to be able to dance through the murder and pain."

Quoted

"We all sat around and worked arrangements together."

Alex Ebert
Commenting on how the band worked more as a group on new album Here.

Detractors have also used terms like "hippies" and "cult" to describe the big band of Zeros. Ebert doesn't mind.

"A cult is a cult until it becomes popular and then it's a religion," he reasons. "We do have an ethos, I would say, so in that sense we share some ideas that we tend to agree on, but I don't think that's necessarily any different than a lot of groups of people."

Because of such a long time touring between albums, Ebert and his crew have come up with so much new material that they have a second new album they hope to release later this year. The style of the as of yet untitled album is a departure for the group that became famous for their whistle-along single, Home.

"It's much more aggressive," says Ebert, "not angsty aggressive but sonically aggressive. There is some distortion, which we rarely dabble in. If ever there was an album that I was slightly nervous about delivering, I would say it would be this album.

"It's a little bit outside the realm that we've played in, but that's always fun to do for yourself. We feel quite comfortable putting out anything that we love, knowing that we have these people to share it with, and a growing number of people to share it with, too."

B.o.B. Rising rapper has his head in Strange Clouds

G. VALENTINO BALL
Metro New York

After the massive hits on his debut, B.o.B. is primed for an easy smash of a follow-up, if he just follows the formula. But he probably doesn't even need to do that.

The Atlanta-based MC multi-instrumentalist gained a worldwide audience with Nothin' On You, featuring Bruno Mars and Airplanes, featuring Eminem and Hayley Williams, but he went the opposite direction with his new album, Strange Clouds.

The new work features such hit makers as Lil Wayne (on the title track), Chris Brown, Nicki Minaj, T.I., Trey Songz, and Roscoe Dash. But the stand out guest might be Taylor Swift.

"I don't really try to hold onto what was successful about the last album," says the rapper. Now that the album is in stores, the work doesn't stop for B.o.B. Plans are in the works for an international tour and a collaborative album with T.I., entitled The Man and the Martian.

B.o.B. GETTY IMAGES

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Selleck lays down the law

Tom Selleck's still got it. Actor plays two kinds of lawmen, starring in Blue Bloods plus a new Jesse Stone TV film

Tom Selleck GETTY IMAGES

As Blue Bloods reaches its second-season finale, Tom Selleck is looking ahead to season three.

On the CBS hit drama, Selleck plays Frank Reagan, the NYPD commissioner and patriarch of a family devoted to law enforcement and one another. His offspring include a detective (Donnie Wahlberg), a cop (Will Estes) and an assistant D.A. (Bridget Moynahan). On duty and off, they, along with the extended Reagan family, have each other's back — even if it's not always easy to say it.

"We Reagans aren't real gushy, but I couldn't be more proud of you," Frank Reagan tells his daughter in one of his more expansive displays.

Frank is an upright, reassuring presence for his brood and for Blue Bloods viewers alike, especially presiding at the head of the table for the family dinners that have become a weekly staple of the show.

The role is a comfortable fit for Selleck, himself a family man wed to Jillie for a quarter-century and with a grown daughter, Hannah.

And yet the role poses challenges: How do you play a character who is strong and incorruptible without appearing too good to be true?

"A commander can't expose his weakness or doubt or concern or worry," says Selleck. "I have to show all those things to the audience without showing it to the cops I'm ordering around. When you get inside Frank's head, you realize that anybody with the weight of the world on his shoulders will exhibit flaws that come from dealing with that kind of pressure. I think next season we're going to get inside of him more and reveal more of them."

As the Vietnam-vet-turned-private-eye Thomas Magnum, Selleck knew how to play serious with a well-timed wink. And don't forget his guest role on Friends, as well as such comedy features as In & Out and Three Men and a Baby, the top-grossing film of 1987.

Still strikingly handsome at 67, the strapping, dimple-cheeked Selleck has been busy laying down the law in his recent roles. But he's also something of a funny guy.

"I think humour is an essential element of a long career," says Selleck, "and I miss actual comedy. If you want to tell everybody I'm available for the three months Blue Bloods isn't on, I'd LOVE to do a comedy!"

Of course, Selleck was busy during last year's hiatus. He was filming Jesse Stone: Benefit of the Doubt. Airing on CBS on May 20, it's the eighth in the series of Jesse Stone whodunits that began in 2005, based on characters created by the late Robert B. Parker in his bestselling series of books.

Quoted

"I can't sit around giving orders all day. They cast me because I can play bosses. But I have other colours I can play."
Tom Selleck, on playing Frank in Blue Bloods

Selleck manages to wring sparks of humour from this melancholy lawman, who, as the film begins, has lost his end-of-the-line job as police chief of tiny Paradise, Mass.

The surface whodunit surrounds a mob-related double homicide, "but the mystery at the beginning of the tale is always Jesse.

"He's a totally decent guy who has a lot of issues, and deals with them every day," says Selleck. But Jesse is a man of few words — words that often leaven with irony the pain he feels.

"He's had a real journey," Selleck says of his character. "Right now, in (film) number eight, he's trying to get his job back and put his universe back in order."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Friday

Jason Sudeikis GETTY IMAGES

Jason Sudeikis digs into his roots

This is no joke — comic Jason Sudeikis is featured on Friday's edition of Who Do You Think You Are? The Saturday Night Live star heads to Chicago to learn more about the life and death of his paternal grandfather. Along the way, he makes a discovery about his great-great-grandfather in Pennsylvania. (Citytv, NBC)

Is Mac leaving CSI:NY in a blaze of glory?

CSI: NY wraps the season Friday with Mac barely hanging on after he is shot. As he fights for his life, it's up to the team to bring the shooter to justice. Star Gary Sinise has said this will not be a cliffhanger as in previous seasons, but that the episode will stand on its own. (CTV Two)

Saturday

Will Ferrell. SNL. 'Nuff said.

One of Saturday Night Live's biggest (and tallest?) alums returns Saturday to host, with funnyman Will Ferrell taking the stage for the third time since he left the sketch series in 2002. The musical guest is no slouch himself — R&B crooner Usher stops by to promote his new album. (Global, NBC) THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liquid Assets

An easy-like-Sunday-morning sipper

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
peterrockwell@eastlink.cca

A reader sent me an e-mail last week asking if I could recommend a wine to go with breakfast in bed.

While he was looking to impress his wife on their upcoming anniversary, with Mother's Day this weekend I'm betting many of you guys out there will also be looking to score some bonus points Sunday morning.

Eclectic is the best way to describe a breakfast menu. The fun part is that any early morning tipple should be light, fresh and very easy-drinking — the same flavour profile that loves unusual eats.

Though the selection varies across the country, a white wine made with the moscato grape is a perfect early morning sipper.

Slightly sweet and low in alcohol, they're an a.m. friendly wine style gaining a solid following during the day as well.

I think sparkling when it comes to breakfast (or brunch) is best. Forget the orange juice and pick one with the union of fruit and wine already built in.

Chile's Fresita ($12.95 - $15.99) is infused with the essence of real strawberries. The result is a berry bomb that explodes in the mouth and will add plenty of refreshment to your Mother's Day.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Classic treat will make mom smile on her day

Emily's Mom's Quick Cinnamon Buns.

Metro's food columnist shares a special treat from her childhood

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

With Mother's Day this Sunday, I've been thinking about my mom. My thoughts led me to a treat my mother used to make on the weekends or even during the week after dinner.

In an old notebook dating back to my high school days, I found the recipe for Mom's Cinnamon Buns.

These biscuit style cinnamon buns are perfect to enjoy with a cup of tea or coffee with mom or any special person on any day you want to sit back and chat about a memory or two.

They're best served warmed out of the oven or reheated in the microwave before serving.

This recipe makes nine buns. EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients

- ½ cup (125 mL) butter
- ½ cup (125 mL) packed brown sugar

Dough

- 2 cups (500 mL) all purpose flour
- 4 tsp (20 mL) baking powder
- ¼ tsp (1 mL) salt
- ½ cup (125 mL) lard or shortening
- 2/3 cup (150 mL) milk

Filling

- ½ cup (125 mL) butter, very soft but not melted
- ½ cup (125 mL) packed brown sugar
- 2 tsp (10 mL) ground cinnamon

1. In saucepan, melt butter and sugar, whisking over medium heat until smooth and combined. Pour into lightly sprayed 8 inch (2 L) baking dish; spread evenly across bottom; set aside.

2. Dough: In bowl, stir flour, baking powder and salt. Cut lard into flour using fingers until mix is crumbly looking. Drizzle in milk and stir using fork to combine. Bring dough together and knead gently on lightly floured surface to make smooth dough. Roll out dough on floured surface to make a 14-inch (35 cm) square.

3. Filling: In bowl, stir butter, sugar and cinnamon until very smooth. Spread evenly all over dough right to the edges. Roll up dough, jelly-roll style and pinch seam along edge. Cut log into 9 equal pieces and place into prepared baking dish.

4. Bake in centre of a 400 F (200 C) oven 25 mins or until golden brown and sauce is bubbly. Let stand for three minutes before turning out onto platter.

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

Gram-Slaw. Make this salad a fave at your table

My friend's Grandma Hohenadel serves her Gram-Slaw, a simple yet super tasty cabbage slaw that tastes even better because she makes it.

When they say the secret ingredient is love, I believe it!

1. Cut cabbage into pieces that will fit into your food processor tube. While it's running put cabbage pieces in and chop to make four cups (1 L). Scrape into large bowl; add carrot.

2. In bowl, whisk together mayonnaise, sugar, vinegar, oil and mustard. Scrape over cabbage mixture and stir to coat well. Add salt and pepper to taste and stir to combine.

EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients

- Half green cabbage, about 1 lb/500 g
- 1 small carrot, shredded with grater
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) light mayo
- 5 tsp (25 mL) packed brown sugar
- 4 tsp (20 mL) each white vinegar, canola oil and dry or ground mustard
- Salt and pepper

3 LIFE

Trends

Packaged Cold Cuts

Food companies looking to capitalize on consumers' increasingly sophisticated tastes are carving out new directions in lunch meat with upscale options that are pre-sliced, prepackaged and ready to go right alongside the bologna. Some prepackaged lunch meats now come in thicker slices, mirroring the choice at a traditional deli. Herbs and spices also are showing up in prepackaged products, boosting flavour and appeal. And now there are the packages of sliced, dry-cured meats, such as soppressata and prosciutto, which used to be strictly deli items. Meanwhile, producers have been cutting salt and removing artificial ingredients in response to customers' requests for a more natural product.

In terms of national sales, the multi-billion dollar lunch meat business got a bit of a boost out of the recession as more people brown-bagged it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Julia Child taught Americans to love food, and women to take pride in making it

Wonton wrappers: The secret to pork ravioli

Pork Ravioli

This recipe serves eight. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

1. Tomato Sauce: In a saucepan, stir together purée and water. Add onion, garlic, parsley, oregano and hot pepper flakes. Bring to a boil. Cover and simmer for about 30 minutes or until slightly thickened; set aside.

2. In a large bowl, combine pork, onion and garlic. Add pepper, cheese and parsley and stir until well distributed.

3. Place 15 ml (1 tbsp) of the pork mixture onto a wonton wrapper. Brush edges with water and top with another wonton wrapper. Push down around pork filling to seal and place on parchment paper-lined baking sheet.

4. Repeat with remaining ingredients to make about 28 ravioli. (Make ahead: Ravioli can be frozen at this point in single layer. Once frozen, remove from baking sheet and store in an airtight container or resealable bag for up to 2 months.)

5. In a large pot of water, boil ravioli for about 5 minutes or until pork is no longer pink inside. Using slotted spoon, scoop out onto platter and ladle sauce over top. Toss gently to serve.

Ingredients

- 500 g (1 lb) lean ground pork
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) finely diced roasted red pepper
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) chopped fresh parsley
- 1 pkg (400 g) wonton wrappers

Tomato Sauce:

- 1 bottle (700 ml) tomato purée (passata)
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) water
- 1 small onion, quartered
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 sprigs fresh parsley
- 5 ml (1 tsp) dried oregano leaves
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) hot pepper flakes

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ONTARIO PORK/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT, EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Barley No Stir Risotto.
Get a creamy dish without the stirring

1. In saucepan, heat oil over medium-high heat and cook mushrooms, onion, garlic and Italian seasoning, stirring for 15 mins. or until no liquid remains. Stir in barley to coat.

2. Add broth and sun-dried tomatoes and bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium-low; cover and simmer 20 mins. Uncover and cook 20 mins or until barley is tender but firm. Stir in cream cheese until melted and creamy; cover and let stand 5 mins before serving.

EMILY RICHARDS, PH EC.
FOR HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION

Ingredients

- 10 mL (2 tsp) olive oil
- 1 pkg (227 g (8 oz) mushrooms, sliced
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 5 mL (1 tsp) dried Italian seasoning
- 250 mL (1 cup) pot barley
- 1 L (4 cups) sodium reduced chicken broth
- 125 mL (1/2 cup) sun dried tomatoes, chopped
- 50 mL (1/4 cup) light herbed cream cheese

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SOCIAL MEDIA PROMOTES AWARENESS

THOUSANDS OF CANADIANS LEARN ABOUT THEIR MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH CMHA, ONTARIO'S 'READ YOUR MIND' ASSESSMENT

Social media has become one of the most pervasive changes around the globe in recent history, bringing up countless debates on the positive and negative effects it has on society. Yet, channels like Facebook connect billions of people worldwide and have opened a new way for organizations to engage the population to learn about and be passionate towards various causes.

This week, the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Ontario has harnessed the positive power of social media to encourage users to learn about mental health, drawing in more than 5,000 new fans to its Facebook page in just a few short days.

The reason behind this rise in attention is the "Read Your Mind" campaign, launched in conjunction with Mental Health Week (May 7-13), designed to help encourage Ontarians learn about their own mental health.

It focuses on a unique, Facebook-based self-assessment tool (**facebook.com/cmha.ontario/**) that

CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION, ONTARIO PHOTO

evaluates common issues affecting mental health including stress, anxiety and depression. Those interested in taking the self-assessment can also earn AIR MILES reward miles in return.

"The 'Read Your Mind' self-assessment is a breakthrough initiative that uses social media in a positive way to encourage Ontarians to learn about their own mental health and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness," said Andreas Souvaliotis, president of AIR MILES for Social Change. "We are very proud to leverage the popularity of AIR MILES to help CMHA realize its goal of 'mental health for all' and invite everyone to take the self-assessment and find out more."

The CMHA, Ontario has seen thousands of people take part in the online self-assessment and over the course of the last two days, 4,000 people have started discussions about the topic on Facebook. Because one in five Canadian adults younger than 65 will have a mental health issue in any given year, education becomes the priority pillar in helping CMHA to promote mental health awareness and reducing the stigma surrounding mental illness.

The 61st annual Mental Health Week wraps up Sunday, but mental health awareness should not.

Educate yourself, help reduce stigma and promote mental health awareness by taking the self-assessment online, earning AIR MILES reward miles and sharing it with family members, friends, colleagues and neighbours.

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Advertising Feature

BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS OF MENTAL HEALTH

The Ontario Mental Health Helpline creates a whole new level of accessibility and support!

1 in 5 Canadians will experience a mental health issue in their lifetime!

Almost 50% of calls come from family members or concerned friends!

"I'm not sure if this is the right phone number but I really don't know where to start" is a common refrain heard by the Information and Referral Specialists who answer the Mental Health Helpline.

Finding answers when feeling overwhelmed and struggling with a mental illness or trying to find help for family and friends can be difficult when you don't know how or where to begin. The Mental Health Helpline provides information about mental health services in Ontario. The helpline is funded by the Government of Ontario and the service provides live answer, email or web chat 24/7, confidential, free and anonymous.

"Our interaction goes beyond providing correct information; it's about taking time to truly hear what a caller needs", says Tricia Korbut, Supervisor of the Mental Health Helpline, a service of ConnexOntario. ConnexOntario also runs the Ontario Problem Gambling and Drug and Alcohol Helplines. "If you've never had to reach out for help before or were afraid to seek help because of the perceived stigma of mental illness, then making that first phone call can be a leap of faith."

"No two calls are the same. We've heard some traumatic stories and heartache but we've also heard stories of resiliency and success", says Tricia. "Often the simple act of listening is cathartic. Being heard, respected and understood builds the foundation for a successful call and increases the likelihood that the caller will continue to reach out to services in their own community."

Not everyone has access to a phone or feels comfortable communicating by phone, so being able to provide alternatives is valuable. The medium may be different but the goal is the same—accurate information, delivered in a timely manner by professionals who care.

Mental Health Helpline

1-866-531-2600

www.MentalHealthHelpline.ca

Search for @ConnexOntario on Twitter or ConnexOntario Health Services Information on Facebook

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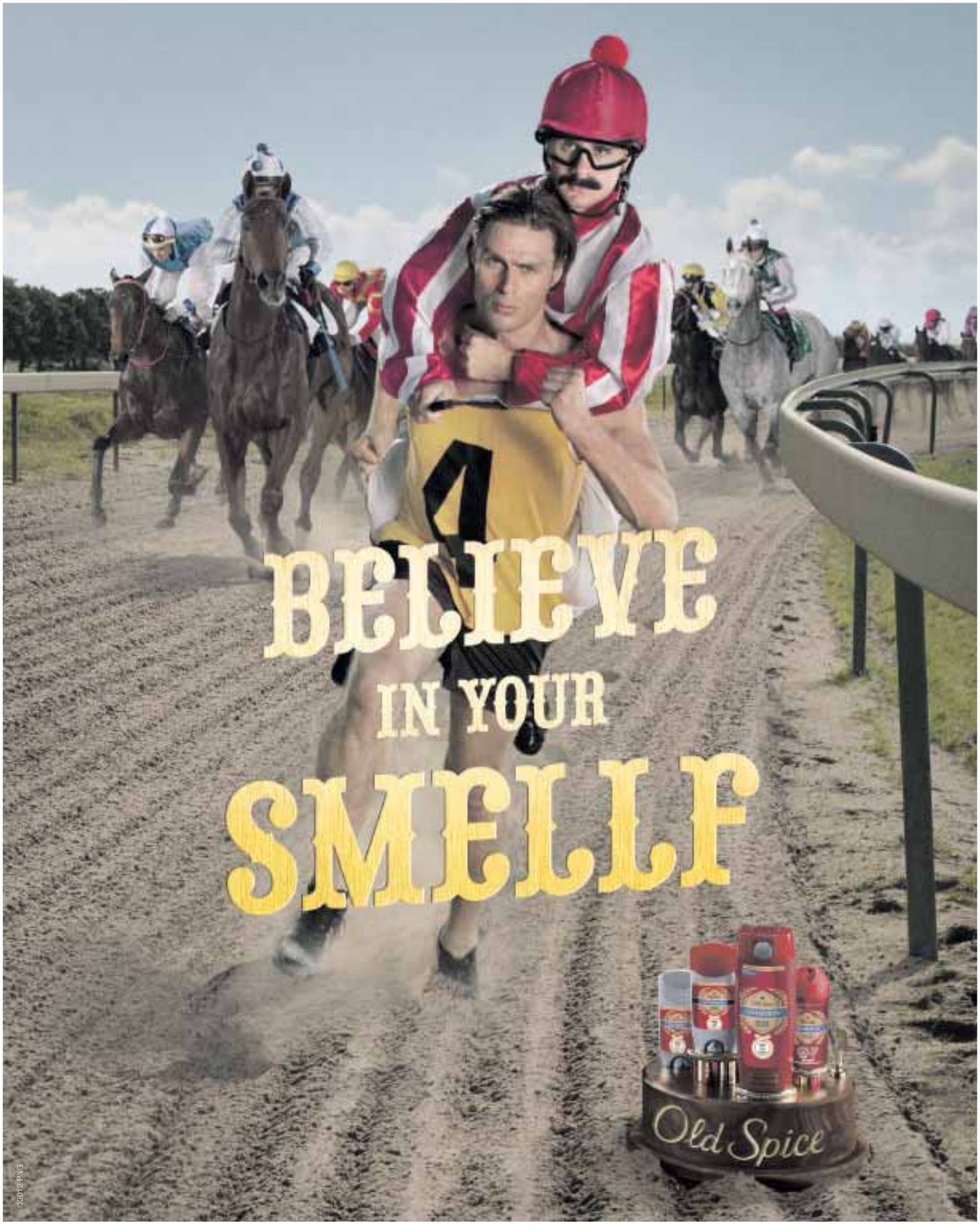
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NHL

Flyers GM Paul Holmgren
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No punchline in Holmgren's bit on Bryzgalov

Ilya Bryzgalov had plenty of time this season to babble on about bears, the universe, the woods and other arcane bits of knowledge.

He kept quiet on Thursday.

Staying out of the locker-room on the day Philadelphia packed up and headed home might be the first sign the Flyers' quirky goalie learned a lesson that he's paid $51 million US to win games and not play the room like a talk show host.

"His job is to stop pucks and help us win games," Flyers general manager Paul Holmgren said. "It's not Comedy Central."

The man known as "Bryz" still has eight more years left to figure it all out.

Bryzgalov never quite seemed to warm to hockey-mad Philadelphia and Holmgren said he expects more out of Bryzgalov next season.

"Did he play as good as I expected this year?" Holmgren asked. "I'd probably say, no."

In the post-season, Bryzgalov had a 3.46 goals-against average.

"He is a funny guy to talk to, I don't think there's any question about that," the GM said. "He's got some interesting concepts of life and how to walk down the road of life."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

All bets are off back in the Big Apple

NHL. No clear-cut favourite in Capitals-Rangers Game 7 at Madison Square Garden

Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin skates up ice in Game 5 last Saturday in New York. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Crunch the numbers, ride the waves of momentum, and then try to guess if the Washington Capitals or New York Rangers will survive another Game 7 and move on to the Eastern Conference finals.

Hockey analysts will make very compelling arguments — and leave anyone who is listening believing that both teams can't lose the win-or-go-home matchup on Saturday night at Madison Square Garden.

Ah yes, Madison Square Garden, the famed arena in which the host Rangers are 4-0 in Game 7s. It is also the place where the Rangers pulled out a Game 5 win in this series by scoring a power-play goal with 7.6 seconds left in regulation, and then another less than two minutes into overtime, turning what appeared to be a sure loss into one of the most electrifying victories in club history.

You know, the tide-turning win that the Capitals would never be able to bounce back from — even though they were heading home for Game 6. It didn't quite work out that way, and now it's the Rangers who will fight to make sure there is no carry-over in the other direction for Game 7.

"We can't let it," Rangers captain Ryan Callahan said. "We have to put this one behind us. We have to go in Saturday ready to play."

Whoever prevails will face the well-rested New Jersey Devils with a trip to the Stanley Cup finals on the line. The Rangers, eliminated from the playoffs by Washington in two of the previous three seasons, haven't been to the conference finals since 1997. That was three years after they won the cup for the first time in 54 years.

The Capitals have never won it all. They were swept in 1998 by Detroit in their only appearance in the cup finals and have been to the conference finals twice.

"It takes a lot of character to bounce back all the time," Capitals coach Dale Hunter said. "You're going to have your ups and downs, especially in the playoffs. We have a lot of character in that room."

Alex Ovechkin has been a symbol of that. He has dealt with limited ice time in the playoffs, but hasn't sulked. He had no shots in Game 5, and it appeared that perhaps he had been neutralized by New York.

Not so fast.

Just 1:28 into the Capitals' last stand at home Wednesday night, Ovechkin zipped a shot over goalie Henrik Lundqvist's suddenly susceptible glove to give Washington a power-play goal and a lead it would never give up in a 2-1 win that saved the season at least for two more days.

"Ovi has been good," Hunter said. "You see him blocking shots. He's dedicated to winning like the rest of he guys are. And doing the little things."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We have to get together here and just play our absolute best hockey of the year."

Henrik Lundqvist, Rangers goaltender

4 SPORTS

MLB

"I've never seen a pitcher get hurt playing golf."

Boston Red Sox manager Bobby Valentine, downplaying the uproar over pitcher Josh Beckett's golf outing on Thursday after he was taken out of the rotation because of stiffness. Valentine said Beckett was scratched from a start last week with stiffness, but he didn't consider that to be an injury and wasn't bothered by Beckett golfing on his off-day.

On the web

There was a point in Hayley Wickenheiser's life when she was consumed by hockey. But ever since Canada's all-time scoring leader adopted Noah, the son of her boyfriend 12 years ago, she says she became cured of "the disease of me." Scan the code for the story.

NBA

Harden named best off the bench

Oklahoma City's James Harden was named the sixth man of the year Thursday.

Harden averaged a league-best 16.8 points off the bench on a career-best 49 per cent shooting this season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

'Birdman' banned after police search

Chris Andersen GETTY IMAGES

Denver Nuggets centre Chris (Birdman) Andersen has been excused indefinitely from all team-related activities after Douglas County sheriff's deputies searched his home Thursday as part of an investigation of the Internet Crimes Against Children unit. Andersen has not been arrested and police said no arrest warrant was issued. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Yankees' Pettitte ready to 'get going'

Andy Pettitte pronounced himself ready to rejoin New York's rotation on Thursday.

"It's time now," he said Thursday. "It's time to get up here and get going."

Pettitte will start Sunday against Seattle. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

"This team, we've just started going where we want to go."

Anaheim head coach Bruce Boudreau, who was signed to a two-year contract extension by the Ducks on Thursday.

NHL

Gainey heading back to Texas

Bob Gainey is returning to the Dallas Stars as a senior advisor, the team announced Thursday.

Gainey was the general manager of the Stars when they won their only Stanley Cup in 1999. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays' Snider lighting up Triple-A once again

MLB. Prospect patiently waiting for another chance in Toronto

Travis Snider has done several interviews over the last few weeks but not all of them have dealt solely with his eye-popping start to the season with the Las Vegas 51s.

The outfielder with the Blue Jays' Triple-A affiliate was also asked about the possibility of a trade to another organization.

It's a subject that has entered his mind at a time when his sizzling start suggests he's a keeper and a potential blue-chip addition to the Jays' major-league roster in the near future.

"It's no secret that guys get traded and things happen," Snider said in an interview with The Canadian Press last week.

"If the day comes where I end up somewhere else, I'll be ready for that step. But at this point in time I'm happy here with the organization."

This isn't the first time Snider has dominated in the Pacific Coast League. His future with the Jays appears to be tied to his ability to consistently dominate the PCL, and how the team's current left-fielder Eric Thames performs.

"I don't think Travis is concerned about Eric Thames in that his future is tied to what Eric does," Las Vegas manager Marty Brown said in a telephone interview.

Travis Snider during spring training in March. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"Last year was different, he had a different mind set. It was like, 'Hurry up and I have to do this and that to get back up to the big leagues.' This year he's committed to playing the best he can and to be ready when someone makes the decision that he can return to the major leagues."

Thames won what was billed in spring as a competition with Snider for the job in left. Thames was considered to have a more advanced bat, has performed well this season and will likely be given at least 200 at-bats before any kind of evaluation or decision on his future is made. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

By the numbers

.400

Through 19 games in the minors this season, Travis Snider has a .400 batting average, .477 on base percentage with four home runs, 23 RBIs, 11 walks and 11 strikeouts.

Low risk, high reward?

Blue Jays give Guerrero a shot

The Jays are taking a chance on Vladimir Guerrero, but that's no guarantee the former MVP will ever pull on a Toronto uniform.

That was the message from Jays GM Alex Anthopoulos after signing Guerrero to a minor-league contract on Thursday.

"This isn't someone right now that we're prepared to say is going to be up in Toronto," Anthopoulos said on a conference call. "I have no idea how he's going to look, how he's going to perform."

The 37-year-old, who will start an extended spring training program in Dunedin, Fla., hit .290 with 13 home runs and 63 RBIs in 145 games with the Baltimore Orioles last season. If Guerrero doesn't crack the Jays, Anthopoulos can walk away from what is a low-risk signing worth a pro-rated $1.3 million US.

"Why not take a shot? See if there's anything there if there's no downside," Anthopoulos said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB. Yankees' Cashman: Clemens asked for McNamee to be hired

Injured and defeated in a playoff game against the Boston Red Sox, Roger Clemens asked for the man who could "push his buttons." He asked for Brian McNamee.

Brian Cashman, the general manager of the New York Yankees, recalled that moment Thursday in the perjury trial of the 11-time all-star pitcher. It was Game 3 of the ALCS in 1999. Clemens had allowed five runs before leaving after two innings with a bum leg. He had struggled through what would be the worst season of his 24-year career, when it came to his earned run average.

Cashman said he went to the visitor's clubhouse at Fenway Park and found Clemens with ice on his leg and frustration on his face.

"He talked about how he clicked with Brian McNamee," Cashman said. "He knew his body. Brian knew how to train him, push the right buttons on him."

Roger Clemens leaves court in Washington D.C. last week. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Toronto connection

- Before joining the Yankees, McNamee had previously worked with Clemens when both were with the Toronto Blue Jays, where Clemens won two Cy Young Awards in two seasons.

McNamee was hired by the Yankees as an assistant strength and conditioning coach the following year at a salary of $30,000 US, but as Cashman put it: "His duties were to train Roger Clemens."

McNamee, who is expected to testify next week, has said he injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone during the 1998, 2000, and 2001 major-league seasons. Clemens is on trial for perjury, based on his testimony to Congress in 2008 that he never used either substance.

As the trial reached the end of its fourth week, it finally began to gravitate toward its key witness. McNamee is expected to testify next week, perhaps as early as Monday. The government's case hinges on his credibility. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MERCHANDISE

Public Auctions

NOTICE OF SALE

Storage-Mart #3001 328 Commissioners Rd W. London, ON Friday May 18th @ 10:45am Units: 0415D Lisa Griffiths • Storage-Mart #3002 1020 Wonderland Rd S, London, ON Friday May 18, 2012 @ 11:30am Units: 3042 Leslie Findlater. • Storage-Mart #3003 665 Adelaide St.N., London, ON Friday May 18th @ 10:00am Units: 0618F John Boyd, 0660F Jessica Seymour, 0719G Richard Tait • Storage-Mart #3004 155 South Edgeware Rd, St Thomas, ON Friday May 18th @ 1:00pm Units: 438 Heather Gowanlock, 408 Linda Boxall

According to the Lease by and between the customers listed above listed above and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage units, the Manager has cut the lock on their Unit(s). UPON A COURSORY INSPECTION THE UNITS WERE FOUND TO CONTAIN: Household goods, clothing, books, exercise equipment, bicycles, vehicle, fridges, mini fridge, tool chests and tools, microwave, vacuums, fans, baby strollers, rubbermaid totes, baking racks, boxes, suitcases. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of at this site on dates and at approximate times listed by the addresses above to satisfy owner lien in accordance with the state statues. Terms of the sale are cash only. No checks will be accepted. All goods are sold in "as is "condition. Tax must be paid or resale numbers furnished. Buyers must provide own lock if needed. Seller reserves the right to overbid. All items or spaces may not be available on date of sale.

Merchandise for Sale

Sailing Elsewhere By Matt Johnston
A true story of cruising the South Pacific
Book NOW available on Amazon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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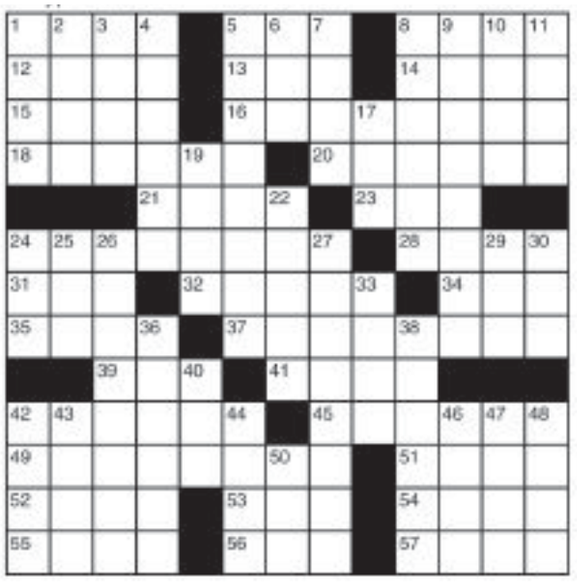
Crossword

Across

1 Mayflower, for one
5 Craze
8 Grand poetry
12 Singer Vikki
13 Conceit
14 Create
15 Lotion additive
16 "Moby-Dick" author
18 Art of growing dwarfed plants
20 Assistant who does errands
21 Wee
23 Before
24 Tunes
28 Engrave
31 Favorable vote
32 Very, in music
34 Pirouette pivot
35 Ties up the phone
37 Rapid decline
39 — -tzu
41 Of a specified type
42 Quantity
45 "Merci"
49 "The Velvet Fog"
51 Nevada city
52 "Survivor" setting
53 Rowing tool
54 Werewolf's inspiration
55 "— of Our Lives"
56 Moines lead-in
57 Picnic invaders

Down

1 Wound cover
2 Head light?
3 Press
4 "Allakazam!"
5 NOW doctrine
6 Candle count
7 Mini mannequin?
8 One with a new homeland
9 South Carolina symbol
10 Sooner St.
11 Witnessed
17 Churchill's gesture
19 Verdi opera
22 Sycophants' replies
24 Gasoline ratio (Abbr.)
25 Historic time
26 Pine variety
27 Odists, in a way
29 Farm female
30 Farm female
33 Pruritus
36 Fries lightly
38 Jenna Elfman TV role
40 Lennon's lady
42 Surrounded by
43 Small plateau
44 Walked (on)
46 Night glower
47 Entanglement
48 Half the offspring
50 West of Hollywood



Sudoku

9		7				1		6
	2		4		5		8	
3								9
		2	9		7	8		
	9						7	
		1	3		8	6		
8								1
	5		1		4		3	
7		4				2		5

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	4	7	9	8	1	6	2	5
1	8	2	7	6	4	3	8	9
8	9	6	2	3	5	1	7	4
6	7	3	4	1	2	9	5	8
9	8	4	6	5	7	2	3	1
2	1	5	3	9	8	7	4	6
5	6	9	8	2	3	4	1	7
7	2	8	1	4	9	5	6	3
4	3	1	5	7	6	8	9	2

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

EW D KEQZ WHSSJU JUBHN D ZVIH QJVBLKX HRLDLH, E IVHRR XJV YEIZL RDX ZH ER UHSS-YDBJKHN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE HE CONTINUALLY EYEBALLS PEOPLE RUDELY, HE HAS EARNED THE NICKNAME "STARE MASTER."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Identify where savings can be made. Don't add to your financial problems by buying things you don't need.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. It may annoy you that someone needs convincing that you care for them. Make the effort. Say something nice. You'll be rewarded this weekend.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Your imagination will get a boost today but watch out it doesn't go too far and you start imagining things that are never going to happen.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. You may have high expectations of yourself. You're going places, but keep your feet on the ground.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Common sense tells you to steer clear of other people's disputes, especially on the work front.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Do what you feel like doing today, not what other people say you should. You have an obligation to help, but you've done more than your share.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Someone thinks they can part you from your hard-earned cash by pretending they are in distress and only you can help them.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. There are many people who expect something for nothing. They're unlikely to get it from you today.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. You don't have to prove anything to anyone, not today nor any other day. Do what you feel is right.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Don't let others see that you are desperate to possess something or they will push up the price.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Your ambitions are likely to clash with your personal commitments today — and it is your ambitions that must be favoured.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. You won't be much in the mood for work today. Just be careful you don't overdo it. Travelling and socializing can be exhausting! SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"Here is your nose for your clown suit, Mr. Gulliver, sir."
Jerome P.

TAMMY LJUNGBLAD, KANSAS CITY STAR, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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